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The Passenger Revolt

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Coming of Age

As he turns 18,
Prince William is
showing an
independent streak

Is he the last
hope for the House
of Windsor?



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Editor

Canada and the diamond war

Would you want Ottawa to dispatch your son, a brother or a close friend to West Africa in an armed effort to restore the peace in strife-torn Sierra Leone? Obviously, many would say, hell, no.

do not get it. That is, it seems, the fundamental reason why the Canadian and U.S. governments are loath to use their own nationals to oppose the jihadist ways of the anti-government rebels. That is why Defence Minister Art Eggleton has pledged only to supply transport to ferry some 1,800 pacifists from India and Bangladesh to Sierra Leone in the next few weeks. That is why Canada's UN ambassador, Robert Fowler, calls for the establishment of a "rapid-reaction" force, while failing to back any effort to put one together for action in Sierra Leone. That is why the dangerous task of restoring peace is being left to Third World nations, many of whose troops are

And so the terror continues, including the abduction and mutilation of children, the shooting of foreign troops, the threats to skin opponents alive.

All of this is done in the name of the so-called Revolutionary United Front, led by an apparently mad army corporal named Foday Sankoh. At week's end, the UN troops—the R.400 unit held by the RUF—and their allies were preparing for yet another rebel assault on the capital of Freetown, established in 1792 by liberated slaves who sailed from Nova Scotia on arduous treks.

At the heart of the ugly dispute is one of the great symbols of beauty—diamonds. Sierra Leone has some of the richest deposits in the world and various factions have been fighting over them for decades. The diamond traffic was the subject of Graham Greene's 1948 classic, *The Heart of the Matter*.

which is also the title of a ground-breaking study on the history of the bloody struggle by Ottobiano (last month). And by contrast with the Sanfille and the Collages (see reviews elsewhere in this issue), the book suggests that the civil war actually went on cover for illegal activities, including the smuggling of diamonds and drugs, and money laundering. The sinister nature of the business solidified in 1991, the authors argue, when neighbouring Eritrea began openly trading guns for the precious carbon controlled by Sankofa's forces. And the report also documents the Sierra Leonean diamond miners of fear: panic rising compares with findings on Canadian stock exchanges, and the econo- to which the diamond power-brokers play a role in the country. Diamonds may be forever. But Sierra Leoneans can only hope the richstone ends soon.

Robert Lewis

report@teachers.it to contribute
on From the Editor



Abstracted and indexed by:

Newsroom Notes

Back to the future

Time travel is the way *Mechan's* European Bureau Chief Barry Carnot describes the world's migration: an exploration of the antique but still purposed world of Europe's royal heirs (page 14). Britain's Prince William, who turns 18 next month, leads the way, but the son of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, is only second in line for the crown behind his father, Prince

*Cancer in Labrador: report available*

Charles: On the continent, where 10 times as many survive, a collection of young crown princes and princesses is much closer to succeeding than their peers and

poorest they are, for the most part, attractive, rich and extremely dignified—a poorest combination that causes many a royal headache. "They lead our placid love lives," notes Caru, "a function no doubt of their dignity as the future crowned heads of Europe: Anachronistic though they may be, those lumps and quacks, princes and grand dukes have not lost their power to fascinate us."

The cover package was researched by Researchers/Reporter Patricia Tribble, edited by Assistant Managing Editor Peter Kopvileva and designed by Art Director Nick Barnett.



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The Mail

Singledom

I have been waiting for recognition of the single segment of the population for decades ("I am single," Cover, May 8). I chose the single path for myself some 20 years ago after my marriage ended, and have been subjected to stereotypical opinions ever since, including assumptions I must be gay, too cynical or in need of relationship counselling. Yes, there are times when life becomes overwhelming, and I crave another person to lean on. However, the freedom to be myself and do what I want, when I want, is the best reason I have found I can live, a productive member of society, happy and proud of being alone against the world, seeing it as a challenge and coming out on top.

Fiona Whiting, Duncan, B.C.

Geez, and I thought the 1980s were the "me" decade. From your cover story, it appears the first 100 years of the new millennium will be the "me, me" decade. Never have I heard such selfish adults in all my life. As a happily married mom-to-be, I was surprised to read about singles living in four-bedroom houses. What planet has our society lived? Have individualism and egotism taken over so com-



pletely that we are starting to think we don't need partners? I don't think there is anything wrong with being single, but so many of the people quoted in the article sounded like my five-year-old on a bad day: they want to do what they want when they want and they don't

want to deal with anyone else's ideas or beliefs. Hence, as I say to my son: you have to learn to share.

Jennifer Greenock, Toronto, B.C.

As a single, 26-year-old GWM, I recently made the conscious decision to forgo any more investments of time and energy searching for "the one," and instead I have begun to devote every minute to the most important person in my life—me. I do what I want, when I want, in the manner that pleases me and within the confines of my one-person household. How affirming to read about some of the 24.2-per-cent single households in Canada and the fulfilling, exciting ways they have found happiness or at least peace and contentment. As a gay man for whom the prospect of legal marriage may be within sight, the decision to remain single and direct my resources towards myself has not come about without serious contemplation. But what liberation. Being single is not a temporary state—I'm not hiding my true self until the one shows up. I might have that prelate fear, yes, but when and if I do, it'll be my project and nobody else's.

Chris Thompson, Vancouver

If you'd step out of your Toronto office for 30 seconds, you'd realize that in the real world more Canadians are do-

Political choices

Regarding the article "Food famine" (World, May 8), it reminds me that the world community, in a matter of days, will send massive disaster relief and move hundreds of thousands of troops to protect oil reserves (Kuwait) or to try to crush a hostile European government (Serbia), but seemingly cannot muster enough compassion or food to save lives, let alone ensure that the meagre food supplies safely reach the starving children in Ethiopia without being stolen for the black market. Without musicians belting out a plea for help, I guess starving Ethiopian women and children are just not sexy enough for most to give a damn. What an abysmal, abhorrent shame for the world community in general.

Mike Bellini, LaSalle, Man.

ing everything they can to avoid being single. A culture of dating services, relationship gurus, fertility clinics and Nure Eghayan movies is a clear indicator that the institutions of marriage and the nuclear family are still the standard everyone is striving for. This is another generational attempt to normalize the abnormal by narcissistic baby boomers who can't get it right. What is this generation going to grow up?

William G. Reid, London, Ont.

Although I have been happily married for more than 16 years, your article reminded me of my favourite saying:

Clarification

The article "Gun smarts" (Canada and the World, April 17) stated that the United States had a death rate from gun violence 15 times higher than that of all other industrialized nations combined. In fact, that 15-times ratio applies specifically to the rate of gun-related homicide of children under 15 in the United States, compared to those in 25 other high-income countries combined.

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Required Reading

for planning a university education



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PASSAGES

Died: Jules Deschênes, 76, outspoken former chief justice of the Quebec Superior Court, was known for a 1982 landmark decision that gave the federal Charter of Rights and Freedoms primacy over a Quebec language law restricting educational rights. He built a reputation for close, unceremonious rulings marked by often blunt language. In the 1980s, he presided over the Canadian commission into war criminals, his commission heard more than 200 cases of suspected war criminals living in Canada. He moved the Order of Canada in 1989. In 1993, Deschênes was elected by the United Nations to serve on a tribunal trying accused war criminals from the former Yugoslavia. He retired in 1997, citing ill health. Deschênes died in Montreal.



Died: Douglas Fairbanks Jr., 90, led a storied life. An actor renowned for his misadventures, he was also a decorated Second World War hero, and the lover of many glamorous women, including Joan Crawford, whom he married, and Marlene Dietrich, whom he seduced. Fairbanks was born in New York City. His father was the silent film star of the same name, but the two were not close. His stepmother was Canadian-born actress Mary Pickford. During his career, he made more than 70 films—including *Gunga Gunga Gunga*, the *Great*—and was given an honorary knighthood by King George VI for "furthering Anglo-American unity." Fairbanks, who also was a producer, author and businessman, died in New York.

Died: J. Roy Lemieux, 76, a writer and gentlemanly first-classer, built Wood Gundy Inc.'s corporate-financial department into a legend on Bay Street in the 1970s. Born in Montreal, Lemieux moved to the Canadian Army in 1945 and won a Military Cross for his services. He lost part of one leg to a mortar shell

He later studied at McGill, the University of Toronto and Harvard, and went to work at Wood Gundy in 1964. Within a year, he was appointed to the board of directors. At one stage, his company was estimated to be responsible for 40 to 50 per cent of underwriting in Canada. He died suddenly at his Toronto home.

Awarded: Newfoundland author Wayne Johnston, 62, won the inaugural \$25,000 Charles Taylor Prize for literary merit for his book *Redmond*. Johnston, who now lives in Toronto, sold the movie rights to his 1996 novel, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, to a Canadian production company, Associated Producers.

Died: André (Didot) Fortin, 38, founder and lead singer of the Quebecois rock group Les Colocs, was found dead of a stab wound in his Montreal apartment. Police are investigating it as a suspicious death.

Corrected: Former Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards was found guilty of 17 charges of sedition, conspiracy and coercion relating to the awarding of state overbooked airline fares. Edwards, 77, the Democratic governor for four terms in office covering 16 years, had been acquitted once in previous trials. He faces a maximum sentence of more than 200 years in jail and millions of dollars in fines, he plans to appeal the decision.

Consented: The Canadian Broadcast Standards Council ruled that a widely syndicated clip in advice show hosted by Dr. Laura Schiller is "abominably discriminatory vis-à-vis gays and lesbians." The Los Angeles-based Schillings, 53, who has a doctorate in physiology, and training as a marriage and family counselor, said a various item described gay sex as "abominable," "deviant" and "disordered." The show has a North American audience of 20 million people daily and airs on more than 30 Canadian radio stations. Those stations will now likely take steps to screen the program for gay-related content in response to the ruling.

Over to You



John Intini

No more school daze

Pretty much every weekday morning during the past four years, I have rolled out of bed, thrown on a pair of slacks and then (and craved from the last time I wore them), slipped on my slippers and taken off to either morning class or the office of *The Gazette*, a student newspaper at the University of Western Ontario. It's a routine that has never become old. But like everybody else in the world, I'm at the mercy of one constant in life: change. When the dean of political science hands me my diploma at convocation next month, my academic security blanket will be switched away. Next year may mark the first time in 19 years I won't get a report card.

A while ago, with our years together drawing to a close, I sat with my two roommates, Tim and Drew, in our basement apartment, reminiscing over our time together. We relived our one-on-one grudge matches on the basketball court at the local park, and I recalled my latest fist impression of Drew in first year when he took away the counter-bucking duties from me on our intramural teams. We talked about how quickly the years seemed to pass by, and how close we are now in the Real World. We all agreed that's a bit scary, because there's an inevitable anxiety that springs from having never experienced it. When can I actually afford my first real car and not just the hand-me-down from my parents? What's a good age to get married—or at least what I really want, anyway? We'll have that while a part-time job at the local grocery store paid the bills on a summer job, it won't do the trick anymore. I speak as a seven-year vet of being and prolog.

Now that I look back at things, university seems such a confusing place. Things like winning cents and assignments create a lot of pressure for students,

but there's also a degree of confusion with the life. University offers a form of pseudo-reality for those of us in our early 20s. While it provides that "World-type" experience—such things as stress and phone bills—it comes with safety nets attached, such as generous parents and student loans.

If I decide to pass up graduate school next fall, part of me will miss campus life. Finally, I'll miss late-night talks with friends about life; they often deteriorated into great discussions about pretty much nothing, like the time spent talking about how to become the next big boy band. And I'll miss the parties, working at the school papers, the classes and the professors.

Most of all, I'll miss the friends. As much as we promise to keep in touch, distance and other commitments will strain those bonds we've built. Over the next year, some will go to graduate school, some will travel and others have found work in their chosen professions. Some are like Tim: he says he'll still call for a while just to pay the bills.

Our lives are about to change for good. More always tells me that each year of your life is shorter than the last one. Looking back so far, that's right. Until now, the work has been hard, but the course load varied, and there was always something new. Serious decisions lie ahead: there won't be any makeup tests or cheat sheets to help. Like thousands of my counterparts this month, I can't joke any longer about what I want to do when I grow up. I'm already there. For starters, before I go to job interviews, I'll try to figure out how the real world works.

John Intini will soon be a Westerner, but get more of Great Moments may be sent to overtoyou@maclean.ca or faxed to (514) 516-7730. We cannot respond to all queries.

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Anthony Wilson-Smith

Politics and the right stuff

To better understand why the Canadian Alliance is hovering on either a major political breakthrough or an inescapable warlike, consider its newest sort-of member, Stanley Hart. In the 1968 Liberal leadership race, Hart, then a Montreal tax lawyer, was a charter member of the 195 Club—the delegates who supported John Turner. In the 1980s, Hart, a close friend of Brian Mulroney, moved his opinions to the right and his allegiance to the Progressive Conservatives and eventually became Mulroney's chief of staff. A decade ago, during failed final negotiations over the Meech Lake accord, no one—other than Mulroney—worked harder to salvage the agreement. Since then, the formerly bilingual, earthy, but cerebral Hart has moved on to Toronto to a successful career in the private sector; these days as chairman of Solomon Smith Barney Canada. Hart remains a Tory member, friend and fierce defender of Mulroney, but last week joined the Alliance so as to formally support Tom Long's candidacy.

There's a moment in the old *Soyuzdetfilm* series in which the beleaguered George watches people from different areas of his life meeting against his wishes. He bemoans what happens "when worlds collide" and declares that together, they're "killing independent George." The point was that we compartmentalize acquaintances, and meet awkwardly when they appear where we don't expect them. Now, Joe Clark knows how George felt. Suddenly, people he has known for years are showing up in places where they're not supposed to be, and it's killing him—and, quite likely, his party.

In the past couple of weeks, there have been announcements of dozens of Tories—including Hart, Ontario Treasurer Ernie Eves, and former cabinet minister Jule Epp—taking out Alliance memberships to support various candidates. To the average person, that doesn't mean much—just some names from the past reuniting. To political strategists of all stripes, it's something else again—a sign that the logjam on the right is breaking, with potentially enormous consequences for everyone. Old politicians, like soldiers, usually just fade away when they leave office, surfacing occasionally for fund-raiser or perfunctory declarations of support for their successors. "When they're unhappy, they close their wallets and stay away from party events, like the Tory national convention in Quebec City last weekend. But at the same time, they stay quiet publicly about their beliefs."

That isn't the case now among many discontents, and the reasons involve more than a breach of political etiquette. Parties are living organisms, and a decision to switch sides means abandoning old friends and making nice with old enemies. Doing so is "painful, surprisingly so," admits Hart. It can

also be bad business. People get involved in politics because they believe in certain values—but also because they derive satisfaction from the work, as well as at least a possibility of tangible gain through the connections they make. Mulroney used to joke he would appoint Liberals to government patronage posts "when and only when they ever lay low, hatching Tory has an appointment." The Liberals help their friends that same way. Now, when longtime Tories move to the Alliance, they're saying, in effect, that they no longer like Tory policies, the work is a drag and they're not afraid of turning their backs because there's not much the party can do to spook them. The flip side is that for years lots of Bay Street people liked the Party Formerly Known as Reform, but withheld support because they didn't think it would ever become the government. Now, that's changing.

Another thing about political parties is that when they die, it's often with a whimper, not a bang. Most people who quit parties simply let their membership cards expire and withdraw quietly. Tories concede that in many of the 301 national ridings, they have, at best, phantom associations with a handful of members, and no real structure. Without strong ground support, you are dead, election day. In the 1997 federal election, then-Tory leader Jean Charest was the most popular leader in Quebec according to most polls, but won only five of 75 seats; political press say he might have won up to 20 more with proper support. Clark has that problem nationally—and he lacks Charest's personal appeal.

Hart, like some other Tory defectors, says bluntly that he won't necessarily stay with the Alliance if Long doesn't win. He's concerned about the moral conservatism of other rank-and-file, and in policy terms, he says, "I consider myself a consumer. I don't have to come to a party if it has to come to me." It's far from certain that will happen. Preston Manning remains the favourite to win the leadership, and lots of Alliance members fume at the idea that their one-time grassroots western protest movement is being increasingly co-opted by Central Canada. Mulroney brought the Tories to power by building an unlikely, often-uneasy coalition of alienated westerners, Quebec nationalists and Bay Street money. Now, thine groups have to decide if they're prepared to sleep together again to beat the Liberals—this time on another mission. No matter the outcome, don't expect many disenchanted ex-Tories to return to the party they've just left. Winston Churchill once joked of himself, when he rejoined Britain's Tories years after quitting, "Anyone can sit, but it takes a certain amount of ingenuity to re-raise." The moral, as they say on Bay Street, is your friend, in the battle to represent the right, the only way the Tories can now win is if the Alliance defecates itself.



During Christmas at Sandringham House in 1998 (left): learning to drive (above): with his mother, Diana, in 1987 (right): a contemporary face



As he prepares to turn 18, Prince William is showing an independent streak in the tradition-bound world of the monarchy

By Barry Carr

In keeping with the august traditions of the House of Windsor, the celebrations are expected to be lavish. Windsor Castle has already been selected as the site. The date is June 21, the 18th birthday of Prince William, future heir to the British throne, curiously the best and probably the last hope for the continuing survival of a millennium-old monarchy. If that were not occasion enough to rejoice, the affair will also commemorate four other royal landmarks—Princess Margaret's 70th birthday, Princess Anne's 56th, Prince Andrew's 40th and, not least, the 100th anniversary of the birth of the most beloved royal of all, the Queen Mother.

But when British royals, and their 500 invited guests, assemble next month in the castle west of London that bears the family name, one prominent member will be missing—William himself. "The prince will not be attending the celebrations at Windsor," offers Colleen Harris, a member of the Prince of Wales's staff at St. James's Palace, William's London residence. "He will be studying for one of his A-levels that he has to write the very next day. He's decided to commemorate his birthday later in the summer, after he graduates from Eton, probably with close friends."

As a measure of the maturity of the youngster who may someday be King, that development is telling, even more so as a gauge of the direction in which the British monarchy is currently heading. There was a time, not so very long ago, when it would have been unheard-of for the second-in-line to the throne to skip an event as momentous as the one planned for this coming June 21 for reasons as mundane as a school exam. William's grandparents, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince

Philip, were once hailed as modern monarchs for sending their children to school. When William's father, Prince Charles, chose to set a royal precedent by enrolling in classes at Cambridge University, there was a furious debate within the court over whether Charles should actually deign to sit for examinations. He did not eventually win an honourable, if not exactly sparkling, degree in history.

By all accounts, William is cut from a far different cloth than either his father or his doleful mother, Diana, Princess of Wales. If the record he has compiled at Eton is any guide, he may in fact be emerging as something of an intellectual among the hunting, fishing and shooting crowd favoured by most of the Royal Family. In that sense, younger brother Prince Harry, 15, is cut more in the traditional House of Windsor mould. The studious, fidgeted teen with the studious in a better, more naturally gifted athlete than his older brother, and deemed in all probability for a military career. But Harry is an indifferent student. William is not. He sailed through his classes at Eton and is likely to do the same this spring on his A-levels, the demanding British secondary school graduation examinations that also determine university entrance. "I expect he'll do well," confides the older sibling of one of William's Eton classmates. "He told that, unlike either his brother or his mother, he takes his studies very seriously indeed."

Precisely where William is headed after Eton remains unknown, at least officially. "There has been no announcement" is all that St. James's Palace staff Harris will disclose. It is an open secret, however, that the prince is determined to take a year off before attending university, to engage in some ecologically oriented endeavours, more probably far from the prying eyes of the media in the Australian Outback,

Coming of Age



The young prince has inherited Diana's ability to connect with a crowd, even as his contacts with her family have dwindled

maybe even Canada's wilderness. After that, he seems intent on setting another royal precedent by ignoring both Oxford and Cambridge universities, where virtually all of Britain's upper class go. Instead, William is undisturbed to be contemplating taking a difficult degree in the history of art at the University of Edinburgh, a decision that may reflect either his independent streak or the Royal Family's determination to project a less staid, more democratic image.

Both of these honors may well be in play in the decision to choose Edinburgh, if in fact the prince does eventually wind up studying in the Scottish capital. But whatever the reasons, it does seem clear that in William a more contemporary version of a British royal is emerging. And for that, many veteran royal watchers credit William's father. "Prince Charles appears to be trying to raise both of his sons in a modern upper-class way," argues Harold Brooke Baker, publisher of *British Airways*, the authoritative guide to the British aristocracy. "Some might say that it was in a classier way, but I suppose you can't have everything. Still, I think Charles has done well in taking a leap from the book of his continental

cousins, where the monarchs have more serious and more popular simply because the local royals are more ordinary. You can bump into them eating bangers, doing the shopping, going to the office. The European monarchs are moving into the 21st century. This one in Britain is still trying to get into the 20th."

In the opinion of many, Charles also deserves praise for the way he has protected his sons in the wake of their mother's death. He continues to jealously guard their privacy, limiting their appearances in public to nothing much more than controlled photo opportunities. In this, he has secured the co-operation of Britain's vigorous media, especially the cowardly tabloid press. The media, still reeling by the enormity of the role they played in the events that led to Diana's death in the *land* Paris car crash on Aug. 31, 1997, have generously respected a gentlemen's agreement to leave William and Harry alone, at least as long as they are in school. Now that William is turning 18, however, there is widespread anxiety in royal circles that all the scrutiny may be lifted, particularly concerning William's future love life. In an effort to control events,



With Charles and Harry in December in 1996, first full day at Eton in 1995 (left); at the Centur polo match last July (right); every observer says Charles deserves praise for the way he has protected his sons after Diana's death



Charles is in the midst of reinforcing the four-member press office at St. James's Palace to help ease William's gradual assumption of more public duties. "Certainly the good parts are going to move a little as far as Prince William is concerned," says Harris. "But we hope that the basic agreements are going to remain in place."

In the end, it may not matter much. Neither William nor Harry are blemishing any of the white angels, in public at least, that might be expected from a pair of teenagers who have suffered broken homes and childhood trauma. On the contrary, both appear to be relishing their public appearances. Last month in Klosters, Switzerland, during their annual ski trip with their father, William and Harry obligingly posed for photographers, jelling and smiling their father's shining hair. When William was asked to remove his cap, he willingly complied. "When asked for thoughts on turning 18, he replied with a smile and a very Diana-like response. 'It will be interesting.'"

Earlier in April, William attended the guests in the Grosvenor Hotel lounge in the village of Thonbury in rural Durham by mounting the stage to take part in a karaoke competition, delivering a lively version of the Village People's hit *YMCA*, complete with arm movements. On a field trip with 40 Eton classmates, William approached horse owner John Hadow, offering to let his fellow students in a challenge against the locals in a singing contest. "We were glib and cheeky," Hadow later recalled. "Before long, William grabbed the microphone and was singing his heart out. He really got into the swing of things. He had a whole of a thing. It was great to see him enjoying



With Charles and Harry during a ski vacation in Switzerland in April; with cousin Zara Phillips (left); greeting a crowd in Cardiff, Wales, earlier this year (right); out from a different clink than his father or mother



himself. He got a huge cheer from everyone when he finished."

Clearly, William has inherited something of his mother's ability to connect with a crowd, even if his contacts with Diana's family have dwindled. Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, sees the boys occasionally, but is welcomed by few other royals, not surprising in view of Spencer's anti-Windor speech at Diana's funeral. Much the same applies to Diana's now-wife's sister, Sarah Ferguson, divorced from Prince Andrew but still, bravely, sharing a house with her former husband in Berkshire's rolling hills. William is known to be fond of Fergie. Much to the Queen's displeasure, he has even been known to drop in on his aunt and her two daughters—Renee, 11, and 10-year-old Eugenie. Alone among the royals, William may even welcome the scolding news, disclosed last week, that Andrew and Fergie are contemplating remarriage.

Increasingly, however, Charles's circle is becoming William's. The young prince is very close to Princess Anne's children from her marriage to Capt. Mark Phillips, her sometimes rebellious daughter, Zara, 15, and her sports-mad son, Peter, 22. During Zara's recent canceled stay in Australia,

William reportedly corresponded regularly with his feisty cousin. Two other close companions are Tom Parker Bowles, 25, and his sister, Laura, 22, the son and daughter of Diana's old nemesis and Charles's current consort, Camilla Parker Bowles. The Queen still refuses to even meet Camilla—who, reportedly, has not been invited to the June 21 festivities at Windsor Castle despite her relationship with the Prince of Wales.

William, however, has made his peace with Camilla, choosing to bury whatever enmity may have existed between her and his late mother. That, too, may be another measure of the young prince's independent mind. And for some, there are hidden perils in this. "The danger is that William may be given too much say in what he is doing," says Brooke Baker of *British Airways*. "I hope the young man does the right thing because he is going to have the freedom to do the wrong thing. He is going to make mistakes, any one of which could ruin the city for good in the monarchy. That, to me, is going to be the great difficulty." Those fears may be exaggerated. But they are certainly not likely to make the spectacle of watching the young prince mature any less intriguing. ■

The Restless Royals of Europe

By Barry Carr

Inevitably, they called it the "Love Boat," no matter how implausible the label for an aging Norwegian royal ship. But it was not the royal raft that prompted the subsequent Rashes. It was the passenger list, a glittering ensemble of titled European aristocrats, all young, most single. Crown Prince Felipe of Spain was onboard along with his sister, Cristina. Crown Prince Victor of Sweden was there, as were Crown Prince Haakon of Norway, Frederik of Denmark, Pavlos of Greece and Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands. For six days in June, 1997, the young princes and princesses, 15 in all, posed as they cruised the Norwegian fjords—part of the celebrations marking the 60th birthdays of Norway's Queen Sonja and King Harald V. "The purpose," Queen Sonja coyly remarked at the time, "was to allow the young members of Europe's royal families to get to know each other."

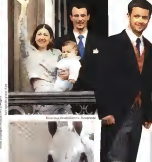
There may well have been a glimmer of budding royal romance in Sonja's eye as she delivered the comment. But three years have elapsed since the Love Boat wended those moonlit shores. And few of Europe's royal families, at least among the 10 who still have phones to call their own, are any closer to solving the middle that plagues them all. "The problem is the lack of suitable careers," says Harold Brooks-Baker, publisher of *World Presser*, the authoritative guide to the British aristocracy. "Most of Europe's aristocrats are getting on in years. The question of succession is becoming ever larger. And they all want to avoid marital disasters of the kind that threatened to undermine the British royal house."

None of continental Europe's royal families have yet endured scandals of the scale suffered by Britain's House of Windsor, except perhaps for the House of Grimaldi, the troubled ruling family of the tiny Mediterranean principality of Monaco. But none have wended with the delicate sails of finding mates for the next generation of European kings and queens. There is no dearth of candidates. By most counts, there are at least 25 princesses of marriageable age currently lazing European idyllicness, polo grounds and yacht clubs. Trouble is, no one seems able to strike a spark among any of the Casanovas' ostentatiously eligible collection of royal kinsfolk. "The princess market is rather limited," as Prince Felipe once flippantly—and firmly—remarked.

The case of Felipe—full name Felipe de Bourbon, Prince of Asturias, heir to the throne now occupied by Spain's King Juan Carlos—is typical. At 32, he is arguably the biggest catch of all in Europe's shrinking royal pond. Not only is he tall, lean and darkly handsome, but he is also destined to succeed to the most politically powerful monarchy on the Continent. His education includes a toughening stint at Orono Lakefield College and a cruise's (in international relations at Washing-



Prince Pavlos of Greece and his wife, Marie Christel, with son Konstantinos; Prince Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands (left); Sweden's Princess Victoria after high-school graduation in 1998 (below); glittering



Clockwise from above, Frederik of Denmark; Princess Märtha Louise of Norway; Prince Philippe of Belgium with his wife, Mathilde; Prince Joachim of Denmark with his wife, Alexandra, and son Nikolai; a mounted jet

Most royal families have wrestled with the task of finding mates for the next generation of kings and queens



Spain's Prince Felipe (left); Prince Alois of Liechtenstein with his future wife, Sophie in 1993 (bottom); immense wealth and high rank that can sometimes come with a steep price and easy to pay



ton's prestigious Georgetown University. He can pilot a jet fighter and handle a blue-water racing yacht, well enough to serve as a member of the Spanish sailing team at the 1992 Olympics.

Felipe's girlfriends, however, have always posed something of a headache for his parents. When he was 23, his mother, Queen Sophia, intervened to break up a long-standing relationship with Isabel Sanjurjo, a wealthy Spanish aristocrat whose twice-married mother had allegedly once smuggled drugs for the well-lit jet-set crowd. While studying at Georgetown, Felipe formed a liaison with Gigi Howell, an American model. In Washington, the couple regularly dined with Felipe's cousin, Pavlos of Greece, also a Georgetown student, and Pavlos' future wife, American heiress Maria Charal Miller (the Greek royal family line in exile). But the relationship ended as the result of a media scandal. Since then, Felipe has become far more reticent about his love life. There was a brief dalliance with Princess Tatiana of Liechtenstein, sister of Hereditary Prince Alois and daughter of the ruler, Prince Hans-Adam II. Both of Felipe's sisters are married, significantly to non-royals—Cristina wed Olympic handball player Janko Varvargier, Elena Spanish aristocrat Jaime de Marichale. Both are young mothers. But Felipe has remained at home, living quietly with his father and mother at Madrid's Zarzuela Palace.

The story is similar elsewhere within the tight confines of European royalty. Crown Prince Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands, 33, may be as large a prize as Felipe—and even richer. His mother, Queen Beatrix, is Europe's wealthiest reigning monarch, with a fortune recently estimated by *Forbes* magazine to be worth more than \$7.5 billion. But like Felipe, Prince Willem has demonstrated a taste in female acquaintances that has not always pleased Beatrix. Yvande Adriaenssens, a cosmetics heiress he met at university, was dumped when she moved to New York City and rumors circulated that she supplemented her income working a telephone sex line. A relationship with reigning blond model Frederique van der Wal came undone as a result of an un-

Few of the young royals have escaped the pressures of being heirs to a centuries-old tradition

denew advertising campaign Beatrix found unavailing. Can actress Barbara Boudens displaced the queen with her exotic ways. Emily Beeren, daughter of an orthodontist, was favored at the court for a time but eventually she, too, was sidelined.

Politics intervened to threaten Willem's latest fiancée, with 28-year-old Mariana Zorzoguis, a wealthy Argentine who lives and works in New York. When the young woman began to show up last year on Willem's arm, Holland's normally circumspect media launched a campaign to find out more about the woman. It was not long before they discovered that Zorzoguis's father had served as agriculture minister in the military government of Gen. Jorge Videla during Argentina's "dirty war"—when thousands of government opponents were executed by the regime. "That could have soured Mariana's fate," recalls Dutch television journalist Jean Marinos, who helped uncover the young woman's background. "It would be politically difficult in this country to have a future queen, the possible mother of a future king, with her father's credentials." But any guess is that the House of Orange will find a way around the problem, maybe by having Mariana publicly disassociate herself from her father's links with the Argentine military. Who knows, Willem might even end up marrying the girl.

Further north, the high-spirited Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark, 31, has also experienced frequent troubles. Known for a time in the country as the "Tinfo Prince," he has been repeatedly charged for speeding and once crashed his car in France. He provoked a storm of criticism one New Year's Eve several years ago when a car driven by then-griffoned Marc-Levin Aarnoud was pulled over by police for speeding. Both the prince and his companion took a Breathalyzer test and were found to be in excess of the alcohol limit. Even worse, Aarnoud, who is divorced, had no driving license.

Unlike many of Europe's other royal houses, the Danish ruling family is liberal on matters of marriageable partners. Frederik's younger brother Jørgen, 32, wed Alexandra Masley in 1995. A Hong Kong-born Briton with pan-Chinese ethnicity, Masley, now Princess Alexandra, is the first person of Asian extraction to marry into one of Europe's royal families. Last month, Denmark's chain-smoking Queen Margrethe proudly displayed Jørgen and Alexandra's eight-month-old Prince Nikola, during the monarch's 60th birthday celebration. In keeping with his adolescent reputation, Frederik was not present for the occasion, an ill-advised affair attended by 1,200 of Europe's titled aristocrats. He marked his mother's birthday in Greenland, where he was participating in a 3,500-

ken dogleg trek across Denmark's remote island along with five other members of an elite Danish model unit.

Of all Europe's royal bachelors, the one regarded as least likely to marry was Crown Prince Philippe of Belgium, often referred to as "the solitary prince." But last year, Philippe, then 35, surprised most Belgians with the news that, in private at least, his life has not been all that lonely. For the previous three years, he had been quietly courting Mithilde d'Udekem d'Acoz, a 26-year-old speech therapist. Last December, the couple married in a lush ceremony attended by seven monarchs, eight crown princes and a host of other European nobility.



Monaco's Princess Caroline with her children and husband, Prince Ernst of Hannover (top). Albert with his sister Stephanie; tangled

Few of Europe's young royals have managed to escape the pressures of serving as heirs to a centuries-old monarchical tradition in a modern age of intense publicity. Recently, Crown Prince Victor of Sweden, currently a student at Yale University, was officially described as suffering from "eating disorder," an ailment shared recently by Prince Marika Louise of Norway, elder sister of Crown Prince Haakon, was accused of having an adulterous affair with British businessman Philip Moens. In 1995, her father, King Harald, speeded his embarrassment by invoking diplomatic immunity Prince Albert, heir to Monaco's throne, remains unmarried, the result perhaps of the tangled marital relationships of both his aunts, Caroline and Stephanie.

At 43, Prince Caroline is on her third marriage. Her first ended in divorce, her second when husband Stefano Casiraghi was killed in a boating accident. Current spouse, Prince Ernst of Hannover, has been tagged "the fighting prince" as a result of his penchant for physically assaulting pesky paparazzi. Younger sister Princess Stephanie, 35, has had an even more turbulent love life. After highly publicized affairs with the sons of actors Jean Paul Belmondo and Alain Delon, Stephanie finally married her former bodyguard, David Ducruet, in 1995. But that marriage came to a spectacular end just over a year later when Ducruet was caught by a photographer in a passionate struggle with Marie-Hélène, once proud belle of the role of Miss Toplez in Belgium. Europe's new royal generation may well be a covered lot, enjoying all the privileges that immense wealth and high rank confer. But these benefits offer a price, sometimes steep. And many young princes and princesses do not always find it easy to pay. ■

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Canada

Trouble at Sea

By John DeMont

Brian Barthogee used to think being police chief on the Egegnopeetj native reserve in Burnt Church, N.B., had its tough days. This was before he decided to become a commercial lobster fisherman. Last fall, after the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that he and other Mi'kmaq had the right to fish year-round and without licenses, he took to the water—and had all 75 traps he and friends owned cut by angry non-natives or seized by inspection for the department of fisheries and ocean for floating without authority. He led native protests in the ensuing spring. And on May 6, the 36-year-old band councillor was back in the middle of the action, when DFO inspectors seized 30 more of his traps in the waters around Burnt Church because they lacked government-approved tags. "I'm stubborn," he declares. "I'm not going to quit."

For Barthogee, the latest showdown in the waters around Burnt Church is about principle—over a few lobster pots. Ottawa says it still has the right to oversee and regulate the native lobster fishery—a position reinforced by the court's extraordinary Nov. 17 clarification of its original ruling. But Barthogee says the government should butt out. And as, last week, with the lobster season about ways he and other natives waited for a break in the bleak New Brunswick weather to drop more traps adorned with purple tags around by the Burnt Church band. And with another 3,000 aboriginal traps set to be lowered into the water in the weeks ahead, the struggle is almost certain to heighten the



Native lobster fishermen in New Brunswick are heading for a showdown with the government

Loading the traps in Burnt Church, a dispute that has been simmering since the Supreme Court's historic ruling

struggle in a court's early trial, fanned by the anger and violence between native and non-native fishermen that surfaced last year. Says Karen Somerville, 37, who also has traps but wades, "Who knows if Burnt Church can ever be healed?"

Somerville, the program developer at the Egegnopeetj Learning Centre, a school for at-risk native youth, knows full well that some of Burnt Church's wounds date from before last fall's violence. A wide gulf has long separated the 1,400-member Egegnopeetj First Nation, which swallows its 85-per-cent unemployment, and its non-native neighbors—fishermen who make a comfortable living from the waters off Burnt Church and summer folk who vacation in the seaside cottages and play golf at the local course. Nations in Burnt Church united on the Supreme Court decision—that aboriginals in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward

Mand and the eastern edge of Quebec could earn a "moderate livelihood" from hunting, fishing and gathering year-round—as a chance to turn their lives around. They dropped some 4,500 lobster traps but full, at a time when frustrated non-native fishermen were forced to keep their boats tied up because their season had ended.

The situation quickly grew ugly. Almost all the native traps were cut. Native boats were harassed, band members were threatened with guns out on the water. Onshore, two trucks, a house and a native religious structure were burned. Three aboriginal men were beaten after they tried to take lobster traps from a non-native fisherman—apparently in retaliation for native traps being cut. At the same time, 30 native women arrived



Heading out to sea, Dhuhaud (left): native lobster fishermen acknowledge that the issue is one of control

from other reserves, warning that they would protect their own people if the RCMP could not do the job.

Federal Fisheries Minister Herb Dhahoud promised to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over the winter. He had a federal negotiator, James MacKenzie, to forge interim fishing agreements with the 34 aboriginal communities affected by the court judgment. In most cases, the bands were offered boats and gear as well as economic development incentives and training if they agreed to fish within the federal government's rules limiting catches and seasons. To date, 15 bands have signed agreements, and five more have reached tentative deals. But the remaining 14, including Baie du Nord, have refused the federal offer.

Why the holdout? The New Brunswick band says it has huge concerns about Ottawa's ability to manage the Atlantic fishery. Those concerns only deepened last month when DFO announced that the Atlantic cod fishery was still showing no signs of recovering—and that Newfoundland stocks of snow crab, which many fishermen had turned to, were so depleted that catch limits had to be slashed by 25 per cent. In truth, though, says James Ward, a Baie du Nord band member who serves as a fisheries policy developer, "This is all about control. DFO does not want to give up its power to regulate the fishery—and we don't want to surrender something which the Supreme Court has ruled is ours."

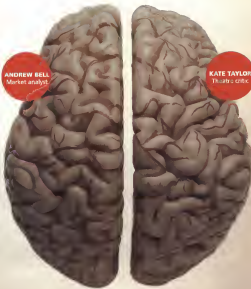
Hence the latest showdown. Since the commercial lobster

fishing season opened on May 1, DFO officers have seized 19 traps bearing native tags. So far, the RCMP have arrested two non-native supporters of the aboriginal cause who are members of the Christian Peacemaker Teams, an inter-denominational anti-violence movement, and who tried to take back native traps seized by DFO officers. A cooking group of four Peacemakers has been in Baie du Nord since April 4, living in tents not far from the village's wharf and keeping watch over the season to monitor the DFO's move. Other outsiders may also be arriving as the natives wait for more traps to replace those destroyed or confiscated during last fall's violence; the band warned the native warriors in Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba had come to pledge support if the situation again deteriorates.

For the moment, relations between aboriginals and non-natives seem to have settled into a frosty truce. But that could change quickly if native traps seem to be taking too many lobsters—or if aboriginals try to keep their boats on the water next fall once the seasonal lobster season ends. "The politicians for the next drift last year," says Mike Belliveau, executive secretary of the Maritime Fishermen's Union. "We expect everyone to be operating by the same rules next time around." If not, more angry confrontation may follow. Nations may not want that. But last week, they seemed more than willing to pursue their cause—no matter where that course of action leads. ■

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Bigger but not better

A recently amalgamated rural township in eastern Ontario has some residents worried that too much is being lost

By Orland French

Wayne T. Sly, outland the improvements in the township's roads as he drove his mail route past past winter Fowit pebbles. Earlier snowplowing Generous standing. "That's the one good thing about amalgamation," he says. "We're getting better service." It is a grudging concession from Sly, the last mayor of South Crosby Township in the Rideau Lakes area of eastern Ontario. For 200 years, Sly's family has been tilling the soil and fishing the lakes in South Crosby. But a, along with four adjoining rural municipalities, was swallowed up in January, 1998, in the wave of municipal amalgamations that has swept across the province. Like other residents with deep family roots in the area, Sly was skeptical of the benefits of the government's quest for efficiency, fearing instead the onset of conformity would be destroyed. And better roads notwithstanding, he does feel something is being lost.

He is not alone. Bigger mergers have captured greater attention: Toronto borough melding into a megacity; Ottawa-Carleton enlarging its capital holdings; Hamilton starting to grasp on its neighbours. But in rural Ontario, out of the media spotlight, familiar names are quietly losing their significance. South Crosby has become a ward of the Township of Rideau Lakes, a new municipality of 9,300 permanent residents and some 3,200 cottagers. On the northeast, a sliver of South Falls, while on the southwest it is tucked between Kingston, which itself has sprawled 30 km into the countryside through amalgamation. The cottagers would argue the new municipality encompasses the most

beautiful waters in the Rideau system, a series of lakes, rivers and canals flowing from Ottawa to Kingston. But for the most part, as long as council keeps the lid on taxes, they are less concerned about who governs them than their year-round neighbours who have a stronger stake in the township's history. Sly was born and raised in the area



Sly's grudging concession that some municipal services have been improving

house at Jones Falls, 60 km northeast of Kingston, where his father, Alfred, was a lock master on the Rideau Canal. At the time, the federal department of transport ran the canal, says Peter Canada operates it. A good reason for creating the new municipality, says those in favour of amalgamation, is the federal agency's penchant for degrading regulations that grope or override the desires of residents and businesses along the Rideau. "We wanted to become an influential force with Peter Canada," says township Reeve Howard French.

Charged with the responsibility of shepherding the new township through

its formative years, French himself has been accused of bureaucratic bullying. Talk of building a central recreation and municipal office complex has filled apprehension that aging community halls scattered around the township—traditional sites of winter ice dances, baby showers and anniversary celebrations—will be closed.

The discussions have provoked counter-attacks against newcomers. Counsellor John Ziegler, a resident since 1989, focuses building the new municipal centre to help Rideau Lakes develop its own distinct identity. "I don't have any allegiance to a township hall, nor do the waterfront people," says Ziegler of his lakeside neighbours.

"Sure, the rural people want to keep their halls. But they want to keep putting money into old buildings and old things rather than find a focal point for the township."

French's local roots are much deeper, stretching back to the amalgamation of his Irish great-grandfather who settled in Basted Township in the 1850s. But he, too, sees the Township of Rideau Lakes becoming a recreational community trading on its extensive natural resources. So, for Sly and other long-time residents, it is a vision that will take some getting used to. "It is a big change," he says, "but that seems to be the way of the times."

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Bruce Wallace

New economy, old politics

Boston is as good a place as any for a politician to stand and deliver a message about the state of the new economy. The city and the surrounding region are booming thanks to high-tech industries and the dot-com crowd. So when Jean Chretien addressed a business luncheon in part of the Atlantic premises' trade mission to New England last week, he gushed up his speech with plenty of odds to the glory of the new economy. The Prime Minister spoke of Atlantic Canada's success in the "new knowledge-based economy," and described it as "a source of alliances in emerging technologies." In a speech that never missed a chance to praise the benefits of multimedia, tele-banking and Internet services, it was almost surprising to see Chretien ending with the traditional rite and tie instead of giving the speech in a black T-shirt.

Not that Boston is without an old economy side to keep Chretien comfortable. Whether on the way in from the airport or through the windows of his downtown hotel, the Prime Minister could not have missed the rail and bang of what Bostonians call the "Big Dig," the biggest road construction project in the world. Boston is turning up an elevated expressway through the downtown area and sinking it underground, part of a 10-year, \$8-billion (U.S.) project. The political benefits of building roads are something generations of Atlantic politicians (not to mention Chretien) have always understood and, sure enough, they don't leave Boston without making a push to the Prime Minister for more federal money for highways, bridges and airports. Chretien was noncommittal, but the premier emerged from their dinner to say the PM had promised more money for their infrastructure dreams in next year's budget.

In fact, the liberals are usually quite open about their spending plans for Atlantic Canada. The party's election strategies, known they are unlikely to duplicate their 101-seat tally in Ontario when Canadians vote again, and these seats are going to have to be made up somewhere if the Liberals are going to reach the 151 seats needed for a majority. Ask the Chretien crowd where those seats are to be had and they soon mention the West, where they will be lucky to hang onto the few they have. No, the low-hanging fruit is in the Atlantic, they believe, where they now hold just three of the 21 seats in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the federal Tories (who won 10 of them last time) are in trouble. The way to grab them is to spend, say those in the Chretien circle, though they

trust the money will be intelligently targeted, on universities and research, new economy stuff. Or more of it, anyway.

That strategy unsettles many Liberals, however, especially those in the West and large parts of Ontario who worry that votes will take one look at tax dollars being redirected into the Maritimes and run into the arms of the Canadian Alliance. The Liberals got a taste of that potential backlash last week when the Canadian Taxpayers Federation released a study into the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency, which purports to show the federal agency has wasted \$2.6 billion over the last 10 years. The bulk of that money went to big businesses and provincial government departments—and some to companies with open Liberal ties, such as the party's own polling firm, Pollara Canadian Alliance critics mocked the spending (\$36,000 to the Friends of Frank Seow Society), and easily reinforced the perception that the Liberals have no qualms about paying taxpayers' money to their own political ends. It did not help that Transport Minister David Collier also showed up in St. John's, Nfld., to promote a new \$38-million ferry and announce that the firm



Nova Scotia Premier John Henson (left) with Chretien, Lord, Tobin at Boston's "Big Dig"

for ferry service would be from—of course, on the eve of a closely contested federal byelection in the province.

That kind of old politics plays to the advantage of Atlantic Canada as a region still in the gap of an entitlement culture, the old shibboleth that the number of votes a party can win is proportional to the amount of public money it does out. But there are many signs the old ways are fading. Down East, and that's a new generation of politicians like the premier Bernard Lord (a Tory) and Brian Tobin (a Liberal) are already busily working to untackle their provinces from the politics of handouts. Indeed there are many Liberals who believe the party won't win many more seats in the Atlantic at all, even if they do open the taps. One sign: Mary Clarke, the former MP who now sits in Boston as Canada's consular general, is no longer planning to come back to Halifax to run in the next election. Not that Clarke doesn't relish a fight (she is, after all, a boisterous New York Yankee supporter living in Boston), but Liberals in Halifax say NDP Leader Alexa McDonough is unworkable. So picking up those seats in Atlantic Canada may require more than just money; something Chretien might consider before perpetuating his new economy talk with the old politics of spending.



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A return trip to China

Their departure was almost as inglorious as their arrival. Last week, armed officials put 90 Chinese migrants aboard a plane for their return to an undisclosed location in China. The 75 men, 11 women and four children were among 590 passengers who arrived illegally on four routing vessels that were intercepted off the west coast last summer. Almost all the migrants claimed refugee status, but so far only 12 have been accepted.

The May 10 deportation, one of the largest in Canadian history, began without warning. Most of the migrants were released at 3 a.m. from their beds in a Prince George, B.C., jail where they had been in custody and bused 525 km to the airport in Abbotsford, B.C. Citizenship and Immigration Canada had hoped to handle the send-off quietly, but reports covering a fish helicopter crash at the



Boarding a waiting plane in Abbotsford, near

airport noticed the scores of police.

While one signature appeared to be saying, others insisted "Go China, Go China"—apparently accepting that their bid to stay in Canada had ended. Sympathizers criticized the deportation, saying the migrants did not deserve to be treated like criminals. But Immigration Minister Elmer Callaghan, who met with officials in China last month to discuss the situation, said the removal should send a clear message to human smugglers: Said Callaghan, "They're not going to win."

Ottawa proposes a higher tobacco tax

The federal government proposed hiking taxes on cigarettes by as much as \$16 a carton on curb smoking among young people. Finance Minister Paul Martin wants an agreement with the provinces to return prices to the 1994 levels that existed before they and Ottawa slashed taxes to combat cross-border smuggling. Groups like the Non-Smokers' Rights Association applauded the proposal, saying a big, one-time hike will discourage smoking. But the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers' Council warned raising taxes will bring back smuggling.

Alberta's new bill

Following weeks of protests, the Alberta government passed its controversial private health-care bill. Premier Ralph Klein's Conservatives voted unanimously to turn Bill 11 into law. All 46 Liberals, the lone New Democratic and an Independent MLA voted against it during an emotional session in a demonstration in the public gallery shouted and clashed with security

guards. The bill allows private operators to perform minor surgeries and keep patients for extended stays, which critics say creates private hospitals and is the beginning of the end of medicare. But Klein says Bill 11 "will be one of the strongest pieces of legislation in Canada to protect the Canadian health system." Federal Health Minister Allan Rock says he has "grave reservations" about the bill, but it does not violate the Canadian Health Act.

An appeal for Ramsay

Alberta MP Jack Ramsay, who was convicted last November of the attempted rape of a 14-year-old girl during his days as an RCMP officer in northern Saskatchewan three decades ago, was acquitted of a second charge of unlawful confinement. Justice Genevieve Smith of the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench said the testimony of the witness, who claimed that, when she was 15, Ramsay threatened to shoot her after forcing her to take off her underwear, was not always credible. Ramsay is appealing his conviction.

The case of the tapes

The trial of Ken Murray, Paul Bernadette's first lawyer, wrapped up in St. Catharines, Ont. Murray is charged with obstruction of justice because for 16 months he held on to videotapes found in Bernadette's home showing the sex-talker and his then-wife Karla Homolka assaulting teenagers Kristen French and Linda Mahaffay. A verdict is scheduled for June 13.

Troubled times for Tories

Joe Clark and his beleaguered federal Tories gathered in Quebec City for a policy convention as a new poll showed them falling behind the Canadian Alliance party. According to the poll by The Research Association Inc., 37 per cent of Canadians back the Alliance, compared with 11 per cent for the Tories, with the Liberals well in the lead with 52 per cent.

Banning raves

Toronto city council voted to ban raves in city-owned buildings. The move came as a common's request continued into the death of Allan Ho, who died after taking the drug ecstasy at a rave held at a privately-owned underground parking garage last October.

Manitoba's taxing situation

Manitoba's NDP government tabled a budget that will change the province's tax structure. The moves will eliminate taxes for some 15,000 low-income earners. But critics took aim at the fact that middle-income earners could end up paying the highest taxes in Canada.

Automotive Marketplace

ONTARIO



Dennis Huggins

If it has been my experience that as the time of acquiring a new vehicle, consumers get so concerned with the initial purchase cost that they often do not

think through the overall ownership cost. This is understandable since initial costs are visible and easy to evaluate, whereas the costs of ownership are more difficult to ascertain. Initial purchase economics are also critical in the decision process whereas

future costs can easily be dismissed. However, the wise consumer will think through all aspects of cost up front. Consumers who do this can save thousands of dollars.

There are six general areas that a consumer should research and integrate into their initial buying decision for a new vehicle. Indeed, a case can be made that the same list applies for a used vehicle purchase although the priorities may be different.

These services are:

- Original manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP)
- Cost of license, whether it is a purchase lease or a lease
- Re-sale value
- Maintenance costs
- Fuel economy/type
- Cost in lease

In this article I would like to discuss one of these factors, namely re-sale value.

If you look through a recent edition of *Auto Trade* magazine you will notice two things about vehicles that are older than 10 years. First there are not a lot of Honda Civic and Toyota Corollas for sale. Second, those that

are available are about twice as expensive as most other vehicles of the same vintage. Why? Because the quality of Japanese vehicles 10 to 15 years ago was far superior to everything else in the marketplace. And this quality was not only short term, it was engineered into the vehicles and it still shows in them today.

The quality is so good that not many of their owners want to give them up and those that do ask a high price. Hondas and Toyotas are worth about \$2,000 more than most other vehicles in the market. This is a good example of the importance of resale value. Today most vehicles are very high quality so we do not expect the same divergence in the future, as a general rule, but if consumers care about resale value then they should buy the highest quality they can. Quality ratings are readily available from dealers.

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rance as well as a lower center of gravity which improves the vehicle's balance and stability when cornering. This feature affords the driver more control of the vehicle.

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tions offer 2- or 3-channel anti-lock braking (ABS). Subaru offers a more sophisticated 4-wheel, 4-channel ABS system, to prevent wheel lockup even under hard braking conditions. This allows the driver to maintain both traction and steering control in all weather conditions and, hopefully, be able to avoid involvement in an accident. All Subaru performance features and components are designed with this view in mind.

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[illegible]

The same is true with what we in the industry call fleet vehicles.

These are vehicles bought in bulk by daily rental companies, government and institutions. Fleet vehicles are almost always used for one to three years and then turned back in for re-sale. Again, there is nothing wrong with these vehicles but because most are returned in a short period of time, there is an abundant supply and lower re-sale value. Consumers should ask their dealer if a vehicle is a popular daily rental and build this into their decision-making process. Conversely, fleet vehicles that are declining in popularity often have higher re-sale value than fleet vehicles that are growing rapidly in popularity in the market.

On the demand side of the equation, hot new vehicles usually mean better re-sale values for their used cousins. Sport utility vehicles represent one of the hottest new vehicle segments in the market today. A lot of consumers cannot afford a new sport utility so they go looking for a used sport utility. This pushes up demand which in turn pushes up prices.

Used Vehicle Wholesale* Prices as a Per cent of Original MSRP — as of January 2000

| | 0-1 yr. old | 2-3 yr. old | 4-5 yr. old | 6-7 yr. old |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| All Passenger Cars | 51.3% | 52.9% | 44.1% | 38.4% |
| Honda Passenger Cars | 75.5% | 66.5% | 56.7% | 51.0% |
| Toyota Passenger Cars | 73.7% | 67.0% | 57.2% | 50.5% |
| Full-Size Sport Utility Vehicles | 67.6% | 62.0% | 53.8% | 56.6% |
| Minivans | 62.6% | 53.9% | 43.5% | 36.4% |

*Wholesale is the price dealers would get at auction. Retail prices would be higher.

Changes in new vehicle prices also have a big impact on used vehicle prices. A few years ago, the new generation Toyota 4-Runner was priced significantly higher than the old generation Toyota 4-Runner. This was justified because it was an all-new vehicle and featured much better technology. But there was not a lot wrong with the old Toyota 4-Runner — it was still an excellent vehicle. So even an overpriced three- or four-year-old Toyota 4-Runner looked inexpensive compared to the much higher priced new one.

The opposite occurs when new vehicle prices are lowered. A few years ago the new Nissan Altima came out with steeper prices about eight per cent lower than the old Nissan Altima. But, even a fairly well-priced old Altima looked expensive compared to the new lower priced Altima. Used Altima prices consequently fell when prices dropped for this model. There is not much a consumer can do about these situations but more familiarity with price changes would help.

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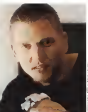
Saving Pte. Pepper

Barry Pepper is no overnight success

Barry Pepper calls himself a "blue-collar hippie." In the course of a 45-minute interview, he says it three times, as if trying to convince himself the description is true. He also talks the talk. When he describes living in Vancouver, he says, "This is where my soul soars, [with all our] deer, bears and eagles." These days, the Campbell, B.C.-born actor is content on shuddering himself from the trappings of instant celebrity. In the past two years, Pepper, 30, has gone from a small-time player on Canadian television to one of Hollywood's "leading men of the millennium"—as described by *Q* magazine.

The attention started with his turn in *Steven Spielberg's Saving Private Ryan*. Pepper played southern sharpshooter Pvt. Roy Jackson, who prayed before every kill. He fell loved that with *Everett* after *Star* and the Oscar-nominated film *The Green Mile*. Now, he co-stars with John Travolta in *Boys in the Trees*. "People like to say I'm an overnight success," says Pepper. "But it hasn't come on a silver platter. It was nine years ago I took my first acting class."

Next, Pepper has two projects colliding. He is scheduled to be in *Los Angeles* shooting an HBO movie, directed by Billy Crystal, in which he plays Roger Maris in the story of *Muri and Mickey Munde's* 1961 home-run race to beat *Babe Ruth's* record, at the same time that his first child is due back home. "They're bringing my wife, Candy, to L.A.," says Pepper, "and taking responsibility for everything nerve-racking for two young, new parents." Hollywood takes care of its hippies.



The actor faces and fatherhood

Tales from D.C.

Joe Klein, aka Anonymous, the Washington insider who, while working at *National*, penned the 1996 best-seller *Primary Colors*, says he never wanted to be in the spotlight. But after enduring a media frenzy that uncovered him as the book's author, Klein says

he learned what it was like to be on the hot seat. "I found out how difficult it was to think clearly," says the 53-year-old Klein, now *The New Yorker's* Washington correspondent. "There were people screaming at me, my brain and mouth were in different places and my body was in a leather room in the fetal position."

That experience was part of the inspira-

tion for his new book, *The Running Mide*, which follows a sympathetic politician repeatedly forced to make tough moral decisions during a messy Senate race. Now a veteran of his own profession's glare, Klein says his experience has made him a better journalist. "I understood how hard it is to be on the other side of an interview. Especially a hostile one."



Lee pays tribute to the blues that influenced her

Rance sings the blues

Recently, a Toronto drag queen told Montreal jazz singer **Rance Lee** he impersonated her. Of all people, Lee, 56, understands that as the highest form of flattery. Lee herself pays tribute to the female jazz greats who influenced her by performing in her personas. "My first few years on the road," says Lee, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., "I thought I was *Etta*. *Washington* occurred, I ascended just like her, I played like her." Later, after Lee moved to Montreal and married jazz pianist **Richard Ring**, she won the *Doris Mavor Moore Award* for her portrayal of *Billie Holiday* in her 1986 show, *Lady Day at Emerson Bar and Grill*.

This summer, Lee will bring all her early influences together in one show: *Dark Blues*, which is both an album and a musical, contains Lee's interpretations of, and reflections on, *Holiday*, *Washington*, *Josephine Baker*, *Lena Horne*, *Pearl Bailey*, *Sarah Vaughan* and *Ella Fitzgerald*. *Orange*, Lee moves with ease from the French repertoire of Baker to Baker's comical delivery of *Two Two Two* in Fitzgerald-style scat. "I don't want to imitate anyone, and fall short of the magic," says Lee, speaking like a true diva. "I only want to evoke their essence."



Divorced children using barriers to force the public into submission

Only days before the hostage-taking, Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy visited Freetown on UN business and met with Sankoh in his villa. Axworthy attempted to convince the rebel leader to release 3,000 teenage girls his forces held as sex slaves, but Sankoh rebuffed those efforts. "He was focusing on his diamond mines, not the children he was abusing," Axworthy told *Madant*. Last week, with the misunderstanding mounting, British Prime Minister Tony Blair dispatched 250 peacekeepers to Freetown to help evacuate foreign nationals. Canada and the United States also promised planes to ferry 2,000 additional peacekeepers into the country from India and Bangladesh. Blair and U.S. President Bill Clinton refused UN secretary-general Kofi Annan's appeal to send in combat troops to crush the rebels. But Axworthy assured the United Nations would not abandon Sierra Leone. "The UN is not retreating," he said. "It is regrouping."

With Sankoh firmly in control of the countryside and the

when they entered the Rev. Jusu Jackson as a peace envoy to lobby President Kabbah, Sankoh and a second rebel group that once supported the RUF for peace. To secure peace, the United States was forced to strike a bargain with the devil, with Sankoh becoming vice-president. As part of the deal, Sankoh and his troops were granted amnesty in exchange for disbanding and giving up their weapons—which they did not do.

From the time they arrived in December, the peacekeepers were easy prey in fact, the 500 peacekeepers captured on May 4 apparently gave up their weapons without an argument. As would

Sierra Leone: a tragic past

1800 becomes a British colony populated largely by freed slaves

1961 Achieves independence

1996 Election of President

Ahmed Tejan Kabbah

1997 Kabbah in southwest

in a coup and flees to Guinea

1998 Kabbah is reduced to

power with the help of Nigeria

1999 Today Sankoh leads

Revolutionary United Front

soliders into Freetown. After

harassing the city for three weeks

the rebels retreat and sign a

peace accord in July, with Kabbah

remaining as president and

Sankoh becoming vice president.

Gems and Death

The illegal sale of diamonds is fuelling a deadly challenge to the UN in Sierra Leone

By Tom Fennell

Given the horror that has characterized Sierra Leone's recent past, it was a bold move. On May 8, with that small diamond-rich country once again descending into chaos, several thousand government supporters gathered in Freetown, the capital, as promised in a villa belonging to rebel leader Friday Sankoh. But Sankoh's soldiers have a reputation for brutality—even to the point of mutilating children. And they did not hesitate, firing into the crowd and killing four people as Sankoh escaped. A week's end, his whereabouts remained

unknown, as did the fate of 500 UN peacekeepers, mostly from Zambia, captured by his men on May 4. What was clear is that Sierra Leone's fragile peace seemed irreversibly broken as Sankoh's troops launched a new offensive against the capital—even as thousands of frightened people fleeing the fighting continued to arrive in the city.

Since 1991, Sankoh's Revolutionary United Front has tried to terrorize Sierra Leone into submission—often by cutting off the feet and hands of innocent children—in an effort to control the country's diamond trade. The horror was supposed to end last July, when Sankoh agreed to become vice-president in a power-sharing government with President Jusu Kabbah. But when the 500 UN peacekeepers, part of a 8,500-strong peacekeeping force, finally got on scene the country to police the agreement, approached Sankoh's diamond mines on May 4, the rebels took them hostage, precipitating a new round of hostilities with UN troops ill-prepared for full-scale combat.



Sankoh, a British soldier as guard as Freetown (left) the rebel forces threaten to launch a new wave of terror

Went unwilling to send in combat troops, many analysts believe a bloody standoff will now prevail. To finally defeat Sankoh, the West will have to sever his financial lifeline, severance from the rich diamond mines in the eastern part of the country. The gems are shipped south to neighboring Liberia, where they are sold on the black market. So far, the struggle for control of Sierra Leone's wealth has scarred a generation of the country's youth. Young boys and girls were kidnapped, the girls used as sex slaves and the boys forced into the RUF. As Sankoh's fighters, they committed terrible atrocities, including murdering nearly 10,000 people since 1991 by chopping off their hands, arms or feet. "This war is only about diamonds," said Ian Smith, who co-authored "The Heart of the Matter," a report on the Sierra Leone diamond trade for the Ottawa-based human rights group Partnership Africa Canada. "The RUF wants to dislodge the government so it can gain more control."

U.S. officials thought they had ended the fighting last year

but it, countries are not prepared to sacrifice their sons on the altar of human rights—unless they can benefit from 15,000 feet in a very safe environment," said retired Canadian Maj.-Gen. Lewis MacKenzie, who led a UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia in 1992.

The United Nations is hoping that a regional African force led by Nigeria could yet enter Sierra Leone and put down the rebels. But it is a hard mission in Abbeji, Nigeria, leaders from around the region condemned Sankoh but fell short of ordering additional troops into Sierra Leone. Kabbah also hopes to undermine Sankoh by asking the Security Council to consider sanctions against countries dealing in Sierra Leone diamonds. Partnering Africa Canada would welcome such a move. "The UN should ban all exports of diamonds from Liberia," said Smith. "It's high time the world paid attention to it." If not, the children of Sierra Leone will continue to be sacrificed in the struggle over diamonds. ■





Guns and a million moms

It's a place where law-abiding citizens helplessly watch the creeping but steady erosion of their freedom. "Where honest folk have come to fear the government and a law that no longer trusts them." A place that stands as a stark warning to Americans determined to safeguard their liberty, "because if this is happening here, it could happen down there."

Recognize it yet? It's Canada, of course, as portrayed in a pretty darn scary video by the U.S. National Rifle Association. The NRA (like many Canadian gun owners, to be sure) is particularly outraged by Bill C-68, the federal law requiring all firearms to be registered by the end of 2002. It's the old slippery slope argument: once the feds know where the guns are, it's just a matter of time before they take them away.

Or so, at least, argues the NRA, which once again is mourning the barricades to protect "the right of the people to keep and bear arms" under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It should, by all rights, be a tough sell these days. Americans have been shocked by a string of shootings at schools, churches, offices—even day-care centers. For Donna Don-Thomson, a costume designer from New Jersey, the last straw was a shooting at a community centre in California last August. She watched on TV as a line of nursery-school



The shooting in California; the last straw

kids were led to safety, and began organizing last week's "Million Mom March" in Washington and 60 other U.S. cities to push for licensing and registration of handguns, safety locks, and other measures. "I couldn't stop thinking about those kids," she said in a letter to supporters. "I felt ashamed, ashamed because I've sat back while others battle the gun lobby to protect our children."

The idea is, quite literally, to turn gun control into a motherhood issue, much as Western-Agony Drink Driving changed fundamental attitudes towards drinking and driving. A parade of moms shaming their stories of lost children grazed down on playgrounds, news that in beached holidays. With tens of thousands of mostly middle-class mothers on the march, a second of the movement (if gun control might finally become a major political force).

So why wait the NRA on its intent? Why is it stronger than ever, its membership way up? (It added 700,000 new members in the past 15 months and expects a record four million by No-

vember.) Largely because the situation is a lot more complicated than the cartoon version of it places like Canada, i.e., concerned mothers versus the gun nuts. Consider:

- U.S. gun violence is actually way down, along with other violent crime, despite the rash of ammunition-grinding shootings. New figures released last week by the FBI show serious crimes dropped in 1999 for the eighth year in a row.
- Fatal firearm accidents involving children are at an all-time low. In 1996, according to the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, they accounted for just 138 deaths, a minuscule 0.3 per cent of all deaths among American children.
- The Million Moms are closely focusing on child safety, citing the well-publicized figure that an average of a dozen U.S. children are killed every day by firearms ("Black day

there is no action on this issue, we lose 12 more children," they say on their Web site). Unfortunately, the figure doesn't stand up. It's reached by including everyone under 20 as a "child." But the vast majority (85 per cent) of those killed by guns are aged 15 to 20, many of them older teenagers involved in violent crime. Every young person lost, of course, is a tragedy. But lumping 19-year-old gang members in with tiny two-year-olds is senseless.

• Americans are skeptical about the value of new laws to further reduce gun violence. A survey by the independent Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, carried out for the first anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre, found that by a margin of 66 per cent to 29 per cent, Americans think gun control is more important than the rights of gun owners. But asked what would best reduce crime, they rank more gun laws behind many other things, like community programs for young people and longer jail terms. Only six per cent say tougher gun control would prevent another Columbine. Instead, the NRA scores points by noting the Clinton administration's failure to strongly enforce many existing gun laws.

So the Million Moms have thus far woken us out for them. They intend to keep their campaign going until November elections, to make gun control a central issue for the middle-class, suburban voters whom politicians prize so highly. But the early evidence is not all encouraging. It may take more than this dying news, or marching moms, to shift American attitudes

Protesting a killing

In Spain, thousands of people protested the assassination of newspaper columnist José Luis López de la Calle. The 63-year-old, who wrote for the Madrid daily *El Mundo*, had been an outspoken opponent of the Basque guerrilla group Euzkadi. He was shot outside his home in the Basque town of Andoain on May 7, the fourth person killed by the rebels since December.

In the money

Larry Ross, a Michigan swimming-pool installer, claimed half of a \$363-million jackpot—the largest ever won in U.S. lottery history. He chose to take his share of the May 9 prize in a one-time, lump-sum payment rather than spread it over 26 years. The second winner has yet to come forward.

India passes one billion

India's population officially hit one billion on May 11 with the birth of a baby girl named Ansha Aarav in New Delhi. The government marked the milestone with a campaign to encourage Indians to have smaller families. With an estimated 42,000 births a day, India is expected to surpass China as the most populous nation by 2036.

Giuliani's sex scandal

In a surprise TV statement, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said that he is separating from Donna Hanover, his wife of 16 years. The announcement came a week after the mayor acknowledged he had been seeing Judith Nathan, 44, a divorced nurse who he described as a "very good friend." In her own statement, Hanover said the marriage had been in trouble, but said it was because of another woman later identified as Christine Lagana, formerly communications director in the municipal government.

McCain endorses Bush

Arizona Senator John McCain endorsed George W. Bush last for the White House. The two fought a bitter campaign in the Republican primaries earlier this year. Bush said McCain's decision would finally unify the party in the race for the presidency this November.



Wildfire rages through Los Alamos

Ignited by raging winds, a fire set by workers to remove brush near Los Alamos, N.M., went out of control and burned through 22,000 hectares of forest. About 300 homes were destroyed and 25,000 people evacuated from the town, the site of the nuclear weapons laboratory where the first atomic bomb was developed. Buildings housing radioactive material were spared.

The student behind the 'Love Bug'

A 23-year-old computer-school student

to say he may have accidentally unleashed the so-called Love Bug virus that afflicted computers around the world on May 4. Onid de Guzman, who once submitted a thesis on how to steal free Internet time, did not directly accept responsibility for the incident. But in a news conference held in Manila, he acknowledged that he and his friends had been trying to create a "prank"—a term used by young Filipinos to describe something mis-

ing—and that "it is possible" he may have unleashed the virus.

Earlier in the week, spokesmen for the Philippines National Bureau of Investigation confirmed that they had traced the e-mail address used to spread the virus to a flat in Manila inhabited by de Guzman, his sister, Irene, and Ronald Ramirez, a bank employee. Millions of computers around the world were affected by the Love Bug virus, which caused an estimated \$15 billion in damage. It arrived as an e-mail attachment entitled "ILOVEYOU," then downloaded user files, stole passwords and replicated and spread itself through the user's e-mail address book.

A liberal prime minister for Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin formally nominated Mikhail Kasyanov, 45, a pro-reform economist, as he the country's prime minister. The Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, is expected to approve the choice. The nomination of Kasyanov, who has been serving as deputy prime minister, was welcomed in the West, where he is known for his skillful restructuring of Russia's \$60-billion foreign debt. Kasyanov is expected to streamline Russia's complicated tax system in an effort to improve the investment climate in the country.

Unfriendly Skies

Politicians and passengers assail Air Canada and its hard-driving boss as tales of merger-related turmoil mount

By John Nicol

The task for dog breeder Hal Perry was supposed to be simple: get food company hired a new for him to fly Air Canada from Chathamtown to Toronto with his small black schipperke and a German shepherd. When Perry went to check in, he discovered the plane did not have a climate-controlled hold, as promised. A debate ensued over who

would be liable if the shepherd was harmed (the small dog could fly in the cabin). Then Air Canada told Perry the flight was overbooked, he had no seat and he would have to drive more than 100 km to the Mississauga, N.B., airport, to catch a plane. Perry was furious, especially when he found out an off-duty Air Canada employee managed to find space on the flight at that price. "They had no compassion whatsoever," says Perry. "This never happened with Canadian Airlines."

A few days later, on April 5, Canadian wasn't doing much better. It had cancelled a return flight from Mexico City, but failed to notify all its passengers, including Paul Cloutier, an 81-year-old retired commercial artist from Buffalo Pound, Sask. After a month of sunshine and a visit to the village of a boy he sponsors through a charity, Cloutier was disappointed. "The thing that bothered me the most," says Cloutier, who was travelling with his wife, "was that nobody was there to tell us they weren't flying. Nobody knew what was going on."

The operations of Canada's two main carriers, which were each named top airline in North America in the past two years, have suffered dramatically in the first six weeks of their

new merged schedule. The airlines argue they have been in a golden bowl because of the merger that was approved in principle on Dec. 31, and that much of the criticism is based on anecdotes blown out of proportion. Then, too, there has been a cascade of reports of cancelled flights, long linesups, lost luggage and chronic overbookings. As recently as last month, many of the critics were willing to overlook glitches and what one called "a beautifully difficult merger." But now, that grace period is clearly over.

To its detractors—including many politicians, travel agents, corporate passengers and competitors—the new monolith is already acting like a monopoly. Critics have lobbied to toughen up Bill C-36, the federal legislation that will permit the merger and give the fates of the air travel industry. Among the only people happy with Montreal-based Air Canada's performance are shareholders (the carrier's stock price has risen 118 per cent in the past year). But even that isn't enough for consumer advocates, such as Michael Jorgens, spokesman of the Canadian Association of Airline Passengers, to concede. "In the thousands of decisions being made on how to do this, the decisions have favoured shareholders over customers. The passengers will be disappointed, but they have nowhere to go."

The fate of Canada's airlines was not supposed to turn out like this. On Feb. 9, Air Canada announced 30 new routes, 11 new destinations and the end of the often-wasted competition that pitted Canadian Airlines International Ltd. to the brink of bankruptcy under the firm hand of Air Canada CEO Robert Milton—who has a reputation for bold and precise corporate maneuvering—right-to-sold planes would fly the night routes at the night times, older and inefficient aircraft would be phased. By merging with Calgary-based Canadian Airlines, the 26th-largest airline in the world, Air Canada would jump from No. 18 to No. 11 (the top three: United Airlines, American Airlines and Delta Air Lines Inc.). The Canadian carrier would benefit as solid regula-

tion and rule on the way of a British Airways (the world's No. 4), a dominant domestic carrier with routes around the world. Passengers could even use air-plan points on either airline, although officials still haven't worked out a system by which customers can combine their points.

But to reach the Shogun-La of efficiency, the company had the massive task of melding two work cultures and two computer systems, getting unions to agree on security and getting passengers to the right places. To make matters even more confusing, officials established June 3 as the day the merged airline's hub would be repositioned at Toronto's sprawling Pearson International Airport, which is undergoing redevelopment. Canadian Airlines will move out of Terminal 3 to take over Terminals 1 and 2 with Air Canada. A divided tunnel between the two will even be reopened.

So far, the dream has not unfolded according to plan. When the new schedule was announced, cities that lost seating capacity complained loudly, arguing that smaller planes would impede trade. Stories of overbookings and the cancellation of flights became rampant. An agreement among the agent unions fell apart in early April—mostly because the union issue was not resolved—thus threatening Air Canada's flexibility in transferring agents to handle shifting passenger flows. The uncertainties of the merger-to-be created lengthening exchanges between passengers and agents, which lengthened linesups at airports and the wait times on reservations and point-to-point phone lines. The X-Acto knife Milton had hoped to use in his maneuvering began to look like a machete, and Milton himself seemed part of the problem.

On May 4, when the CEO finally spoke to the parliamentary committee reviewing Bill C-36, he lashed against further restrictions and stressed that the alternative to the Air Canada takeover was the collapse of Canadian, the loss of 17,000 jobs and disaster to communities served by Canadian. But members of the Commonsense transport committee admit to being irritated by Milton's approach. "There that Air Canada spokesman Doug Port couldn't 'forthrightly' defend the MPs deemed 'unpopular.' Besides being magnets for passenger

Flying on points

After Air Canada announced its merger with Canadian Airlines, floor plans plans went into a flurry. Air Miles made a new deal. American Express didn't. The new alignment of airlines and affinity plans:

| | Canadian Airlines | Air Canada | Air Canada per laws |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------------|
| Air Canada's Aeroplan | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Canadian Plus | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Air Miles | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| American Express | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Marriott Club | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |

complaints, the MPs were frequent flyers themselves, seeing firsthand the problems facing the travelling public.

Right after giving Milton that day, Conservative transport critic Bill Casey tried to return home to Amherst, N.S. He was nearly bumped from a Montreal flight because it was overbooked, then was kept off a connecting flight when a mechanical problem meant only half the passengers could go on. He even lost out on getting food and money vouchers. Eventually he had to fly to Fredericton, then Moncton, a circuitous odyssey that got him home six hours late. "In the seven weeks I was in, I kept thinking about the seven times Milton said 'I can't' that day," says Casey. "I was looking for the car, but I couldn't find any."

It only got worse the next day for Casey's fellow transport critic, Val Mendith of the Canadian Alliance and Ben Desjardins of the NDP. They faced an Ottawa airport as a result because of queues. Al Mendith could think of was bringing the house down to the terminal lobby. "There were women with babies and little kids crying and screaming," she says, "because they had been in the lineup such a long time." Adds Desjardins, whose 5 p.m. flight to Toronto was cancelled because of technical problems. "People were



Milton, however, cheerily is (apparently) the grace period is over



literally fed up. It was so tense that some women came over the intercom and said, "This is embarrassing, someone should be talking. Bob Milnes!"

The May 5 mayhem in Ottawa may have been more than happenstance. That day the local union for agents sent out a news release predicting chaos because the check-in desks were insufficiently staffed. Air Canada anticipated 2,300 passengers that day, 700 more than normal, but with its agents already off four of their sick, the airline failed to



British Airways sleeps revolutionizing high-end travel

meet the demand. Tom Fenneman, president of local 2215 of the Canadian Aero Workers union, which includes 4,200 Air Canada check-in, boarding and call-centre agents, says "They're pushing our members too far. When you hear of agents going home crying after a day at work, it's time to say enough is enough. Milnes has to start paying attention to the welfare of his employees and his customers."

Milnes declined requests for press interviews last week, but Port, vice-president of corporate affairs for Air Canada, and the airline's cancellation board has improved slightly over last year, and that consolation is up only marginally, probably because of the heightened awareness of the merger. He says the biggest schedule change in Canadian aviation history was bound to elicit complaints. The most common, he maintains, is caused by shared flight numbers and passengers joining the wrong check-

in line. Gates are longer than anticipated because more people have abandoned Canadian in favour of Air Canada, perhaps because of the misguided belief they can only collect flyer points on Air Canada, he says. As well, flight cancellations have been lopsided in favour of one airline or the other. "We have to de-poke some of the peaks we've created with our scheduling," says Port.

Almost everybody it seems, has jumped on the half-Air-Canada bandwagon. British Airways complained of going ga-gawing for funder flights in Canada after the preferential treatment it enjoyed as a partner in the Oneworld alliance ended with Canadian withdrawal. Air Canada insists BA is now simply being treated like every other competitor. And when Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and the Atlantic premiers met in Boston last week, the premiers dined their previous week were poorly served by Air Canada. That criticism surfaced an airline that had just added flights to Halifax and St. John's,

How the other half flies

While Canadians travelling in economy class say they are getting squeezed and abused, those lucky enough to land a seat in first class have never had it so good. Internationally, there are comfy beds, good booze and haute cuisine. Yet not too long ago, first-class air travel was almost extinct. "By the mid-1990s, business class offered plenty of luxury—passengers were asking themselves why they should pay more to fly in first class," says industry analyst George Hannin of Global

Airline Associates in Washington. "The airlines had to come up with some way to differentiate the services."

Salvation arrived in 1996 when British Airways decided to put 14 six-foot, six-inch beds—complete with duvets, pyjamas and fluffy pillows—in its first-class cabins. It revolutionized high-end air travel. The airline threw in top cuisine, personal TV monitors with VCRs and access to 45 videos and eight in-flight channels. At its first-class lounge in London's Heathrow airport, passengers can work out at a gym, get a facial or massage, shower and have their clothes pressed. "You are waited on hand and foot," says British Airways spokeswoman Honor Verner in Toronto. The cost: \$5,460 return from Toronto to London.

But horizontal innovation is sparking the battle of the bed, with Cathay Pacific, Japan Airlines, Singapore Airlines, United Airlines and Swissair all offering sleeper cots. Virgin Atlantic Airways, which flies from the United States, offers an in-flight bar on its top service rung. While Air Canada does not have a first class, its business-class passengers receive free alcohol, a high-end menu, access to the Maple Leaf Lounge, fast check-in and larger seats (but no in-flight beds).

For those in the back, there is some relief in sight. Next January, British Airways will add beds to business class. It will also introduce World Traveller Plus, a new level one step above economy. United has similar plans. BA's version will boast bigger seats and computer links. Says Verner, "This will appeal to business travellers and vacationers who need that little bit extra." And are willing to pay for it.

Andrew Clark

NEL, and had dramatically lowered fares in its fight for New Brunswick against Calgary-based Westjet Airlines Inc. Even Seydoux Smith, president and CEO of Westjet, Air Canada's Redwing competitor, observed in *Maclean's*: "It's probably a little unfair to blame everything on the merger."

What is at the heart of chaos Air Canada is already acting like a monopoly. On Feb. 21, Westjet announced that by April 19 it would be flying once a day from Edmonton to Moncton for a walk-up fare of \$299. In early April, Air

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Business

Canada announced fares of \$249 from nearby Toronto to Montreal, and increased capacity by 67 per cent. To accusations that his move was undermining Weijer, Miles told the Commons committee that "it's not going to be like the good old fun days of looking Canadian Airlines around. Weijer now is going to have to compete, but we will not behave in a predatory fashion." Air Canada's response in Montreal, he said, was "what Wil-Mit does to Kems—there's the way the world works." Weijer's Smith, though, believes Air Canada's move "is to limit our growth or knock us out of the marketplace." He notes that Air Canada cut the fare much further than simply matching the Weijer price. "Air Canada is 65 times our size," said Smith. "What they've done is the definition of predatory behaviour." The issue is now before the Competition Bureau.

For some of the criticism of Air Canada may be unfounded, especially when it

Canada cut commissions from nine per cent to five per cent, and then talk of them dropping to zero." Michele Ferraro, vice-president of client management at Rotor-BTI Travel Group in Toronto, is in the midst of negotiating deals for her corporate clients. For those who fly mainly within Canada, she says, "they're not seeing the same type of discounts they previously enjoyed. Air Canada is only offering big deals where they still have competition—on American and international flights." And under a policy announced last fall, Inland Express is facing more restrictions on the upgrade certificates that allow them to buy an economy seat and sit in business class.

Critics hope B.C. 26 will weaken Air Canada. The transport committee added an amendment last week calling for an independent ombudsman working out of the Canadian Transportation Association Agency, a little-known independent organization that is supposed to handle cus-



Perry 'in command'

tom complaints. After formerly opposing the idea, Air Canada responded by saying it will create its own ombudsman to handle complaints and to work with the federal appointee. Transport Minister David Galkin, meanwhile, revealed that Ottawa would allow foreign airlines on Canadian routes within two years if no serious domestic competition emerges.

Amid the merger turbulence, all sides obviously hope the foot-fusee does not affect the safety of operations. "You can't pull a merger off like this seamlessly," says Michael Murphy, chairman of the Ottawa-based Air Passenger Safety Group, "but I'm just worried that some of the upset is going to translate into some key safety function either not being done or being done poorly, or that the rage in the terminals will easily translate into air rage." Continued unrest, says Murphy, "could also the someone right out of flying." To many frustrated passengers, though, the romance has already been lost. ■

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Asking awkward questions

Bay Street was shaken and stirred by recent critical analyses published in its great fanzine, *The Globe and Mail*. The stories, written by two veteran journalists, focused on investment banking activities of Toronto Securities Inc., an independent brokerage firm, which has gained a reputation for its aggressive financing and acquisition of Canadian junior technology firms. The reports suggested there may be conflicts of interest that allow Toronto insiders to profit excessively from the setup and the share issues of the companies it underwrites and covers with research. Furthermore, the articles indicated that a review of existing regulations in this area might be appropriate.

The executives of *Wall Street*, led by CEO Scott Parsons, insist they've done nothing wrong. They argue that a new business model is required—as are new market valuations—when dealing with junior tech stocks. These are the direct elements of the debate—but on a larger scale, the dispute raises fundamental questions about the current state of the relationship between corporate Canada and the business media. Whichever side you choose, one thing is clear: this complex, symbiotic relationship is more fragile and fraught than ever. Typically, business leaders restrain the media and their intentions, except when they're using them to publicize their latest bid or pump up their share price—or executive ego. For our part, reporters focus on the negative in most stories. We judge freely, even though we often have no firsthand experience of the challenges that corporate managers routinely confront.

The business media have also come under attack for our contribution to volatility in financial markets. In his book *Financial Endgame*, economist Robert Shiller argues that speculative investment bubbles began with the advent of newspapers. He claims that the market's relentlessly short-term focus on rising markets and exploring a good story has led the mass frenzy for stocks and investment funds. In Canada, a newspaper has just introduced a frank note to its investment-oriented business coverage. Headlines have become more extreme to attract readers, and the rivalry for new stories and fresh angles has intensified. On one market dip fall, the *National Post* proclaimed on its front page—without apparent irony—"Guns of hell open."

But while incriminations are familiar, the field has become messier—especially for individuals who rely on media reports for investment information. Another development that has affected media quality is the surge of interest in business data from individual investors, who have suddenly flocked back into stock markets. To an unprecedented degree, print is competing directly with television, and both are scrambling to

match the speed of the Internet when it comes to breaking news.

The drive to beef up business coverage has resulted in the influx of inexperienced reporters at the same time that accomplished master the accounting, pricing, regulation, economics and business models are converging. The scramble for television guests and interview subjects has become so intense that potential conflicts of interest are ignored. That means that portfolio managers and others with vested interests are regularly given a high-profile platform to talk up stocks they own, or talk down their short positions—while drumming up business for related funds or firms. At the same time that demand for accurate, unbiased reporting is soaring, the supply and conduct for it is stretched. Given the volatility of markets, and their hair-trigger responses to almost any news, it's a dangerous imbalance.

Companies are getting more sophisticated about the way they use the media to reach investors and spin their side of the story. Press releases, traditionally the most immediate form of communication between companies and their shareholders, have become more subtle. Pressrooms have long used press releases and e-mails to grab attention from the piles of faxes and e-mails in every newsroom. But even established companies are getting crafty in their use of language, especially when it comes to crucial earnings reports. It has become a key part of their push to "manage" earnings and investor expectations. With the exception of blatant stories, it's a tough area for regulation to keep tabs on.

The widespread use of the Internet to disseminate information has added a further wrinkle to the barrier for investors—and inexperienced business journalists—to gauge the quality of "news" they receive. It may be a paid press release distributed through a Newswire service, or a single contract for a good or service that's portrayed as a newsworthy alliance. Another trend that makes this even messier, particularly in the junior technology sector, is that many public relations agencies now routinely accept equity or stock options in a company as payment.

The flap over coverage of Toronto and its practices touches on several such dilemmas. Initially, it seemed a perfect trade: *Wall Street* owned the media because every piece about it in success (including some in *Maclean's*) featured flattering references to firms in its stable, including an Internet incubator and biotechnology ventures. In return, the media got the captivating story of a spunky independent firm headed by a dynamic young CEO (Parsons), who spoke with missionary zeal about helping budding tech companies to raise capital. The only thing missing from the perfectly packaged script were awkward questions—overlooked until now.

Microsoft fights back

Beating up is hard to do, especially for Microsoft Corp. The company that Bill Gates built asked a U.S. federal judge to throw out the justice department's proposal to split Microsoft into two separate units: Justice, along with 19 states, wants one company to sell the Windows computer operating system and the other to handle the rest of Microsoft's business. Microsoft said it would agree to change its behavior, including allowing a competing Web browser to have pride of place on a computer running Windows.

A break for grain farmers

Ottawa is cutting grain freight costs by \$178 million for western farmers by capping the amount railways can charge to ship grain. It will also put \$175 million into improving Prairie rural roads and will reconstruct the Canadian Wheat Board Transport Minister David Collette called the cuts a "free-produce package." But Canadian Pacific Railway, which has put \$3 billion into improving its service over the last three years, said it would reconsider future investments.

Bay Street looks south

Call it a match made in Wall Street. The Toronto Stock Exchange is discussing the viability of an alliance with the New York Stock Exchange. The TSE is also talking to other potential partners, including Nasdaq. Canada's leading exchange has been spooked by the Quebec government's deal with New York City-based Nasdaq to open a branch in Montreal.

Driving onto the Web

Ford Motor Co. of Canada Ltd. and two Canadian companies will promote a global focus on selling cars on the Internet. Consumers in the Hamilton and Ottawa regions will be the first in the world to be able to go online and contact either a vehicle from the manufacturer (automated). They will obtain a "ford" "choice" for the car and, if the process model is not available, can track its status through manufacturing. Trucks will confirm the order with a \$250 credit-card deposit and take delivery from a local dealer.

Caught in an air war

A trade war is in the air between Canada and Brazil. Ottawa has asked the World Trade Organization to approve levying almost \$5 billion in punitive tariffs against Brazil. Ottawa says the tariffs will compensate Canada for losses caused by Brazil's flagrant violation of its aerospace producer Embraer SA, which makes regional jets. Embraer competes directly with Montreal-based aerospace producer Bombardier Inc.

Last month, the WTO ruled, for the third time, that Brazil's financing of Embraer violated WTO regulations. After negotiations between Ottawa and Brazil broke down, the Brazilian government and Canadian senators would create an "impartial evaluation of the dispute." Later, Brazilian officials said they would appeal the WTO rulings, which they believe will buy about a month of time for further talks before the WTO can deal with the sanctions issue. If such measures are approved, Brazil has threatened to retaliate, although this could break WTO rules. Canadian companies—including Alcan Aluminium Ltd. and Nortel Networks Corp.—had \$2.8 billion invested in Brazil in 1998.



Bombardier jets a spot with Brazil

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London comes calling for Trimark

Trimark Financial Corp., Canada's sixth-largest mutual fund company, agreed to a takeover by international money-management giant Amersac PLC. The London-based company is offering \$2.7 billion for Trimark, which has \$25 billion under management. Amersac, which has \$585 billion in assets, will merge Trimark with its Toronto-based unit AIM Funds Management Inc., though it will maintain both brand names. The combined entity will become Canada's second-largest fund manager, after Winnipeg-based Investors Group Inc.

Financial Outlook

Canadians are finally getting richer again. The average Canadian household last year gained 1.5 percent in net income and three per cent in net

worth, largely concentrated in the wealthiest homes. But in the wake of the 1990s recession, it's only this year that net income will surpass the 1989 level. Over the decade, Canadians did see a 20-per-cent rise in their net worth after inflation—but American households posted a 50-per-cent jump.

Royal Bank of Canada economist Derek Holt forecasts that income will continue to grow this year and next. But he worries that second-high debt-to-income ratios and stock ownership have made Canadian households far more vulnerable to sudden, sustained shocks.



Making plans to travel?



Motorola's two-way radios are it in mobile

'Come in, honey, do you copy?'

Kids used to call them walkie-talkies. Now, two-way radios are smaller and smarter, and Motorola, which has just launched three models for the Canadian market, prefers to use its slicker wordplay: TalkAbout. Whatever you want to call them, palm-size radios have proven popular in the United States, where families, friends and couples have embraced them for quick chats at malls, cottages or on mountain-bike trails. While easy to use, their chief benefit is no air-time or roaming fees—unlike cellphones. Their range is limited to 3-2 km under ideal conditions—flat terrain, clear skies—but rain, hills and buildings reduce that.

TalkAbouts, powered by three AA batteries, cost between \$70 and \$230. The two most expensive models offer 532 different channel combinations—useful when you're trying to find a clear frequency at a busy ski hill. Users must agree beforehand on which channel to select. But as with traditional walkie-talkies, a dead party on the same channel can interfere with conversations, so communications should not be considered private.

The latest generation of two-way radios got in U.S. start in 1996, when the Federal Communications Commission created the Family Radio Service, reserving certain frequencies for these devices.

Industry Canada followed suit only in April. The Canadian market is expected to grow substantially as companies such as Cobra, Coleman and Panasonic bring out compatible units. Future models are expected to offer a global-positioning system, FM radio and a compass.

Instant maps

You're in a new city, hungry and out of cash. Mapnet can, a Toronto-based software start-up, wants to help. The young firm, backed by Internet guru Don Tapscott, author of *The Digital Economy*, often wrapping services to businesses eager to attract customers or improve delivery times. If you're that cashless person looking for a restaurant, you might haul out your Web-browsing cellphone or digital organizer and look up a directory listing online. The directory's operator, using licensed software by Mapnet, then supplies you with either a digital map on your phone or text instructions on how to get there, pointing out bank machines along the way. Companies can use the mapping software, which calculates the fastest route to take, to optimize deliveries. Tapscott says he does not pretend to understand the complex mathematics behind the system. "All I know," he says, "is it works in two seconds rather than overnight."

Cool Sites

Kids connect

Once, children scribble out pen pals. Now these form kindergarten to Grade 12 can be cyber-mentors through ePals Classroom Exchange at www.epals.com. Based in Ottawa, the site connects more than 25,000 classrooms in 130 countries, offering a range of educational projects and ideas. Perhaps its most compelling feature is its instant message translation, which converts English text into understandable if not quite perfect French, Spanish, German, Italian or Portuguese—creating an electronic world with fading language borders.

Danylo Hlavachuk

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A Season of Strife

Bitter disputes between teachers and governments threaten to turn schools into battlegrounds

By John Schofield

It was a matter of love over hate. As an electrical-engineering graduate in the mid-1980s, Soro Wong had his pick of profitable career options. His lab partner, Mike Lasciakis, went on to launch high-tech powerhouse Research in Motion Ltd., and is now worth an estimated \$415 million. Wong chose teaching, starting as a steady teacher and now working as the librarian at Waterloo-Chester District Secondary School, just west of Kitchener, Ont. While the pay is modest, he says the greatest reward is helping students learn. Along with his regular duties, Wong coaches soccer and the Reach for the Top quiz team. But slowly, he says, some of his joy is seeping from the job. A relentless wave of reforms has left teachers weary, confused and angry. "It's difficult to read what that government is trying to do with education," says Wong, 41. "I don't know why they're picking on teachers."

If anything, the real battle is only beginning. Last week, Ontario's Conservative government unveiled a proposed law that strictly defines instructional time, requiring high-school teachers to oversee the equivalent of an extra half-course a year. The government also became the first in Canada to make the supervising of extracurricular activities mandatory, giving principals the power to assign those duties. The proposed amendment to the Education Act gives the government sweeping powers over school boards. In addition, Education Minister Janet Ecker announced a long-awaited plan for teacher testing that calls for compulsory professional-development courses, standardized certification tests for new teachers, and regular performance appraisals. The escalating conflict sets the stage for a bitter showdown, one that could reignite the labor unrest that paralyzed the province's schools in 1998. "Clearly," says Earl Mennings, president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, "the government seems intent on provoking a fight."

But school conflict extends far beyond Ontario. In British Columbia, the union representing bus drivers, janitors and other school support workers is threatening a pandemic unless government arbitration fails to reach an acceptable solution next month in an ongoing dispute with school boards.

*Winging our way
why they're picking on teachers'*

Liberal Leader Gordon Campbell has vowed to take away teachers' right to strike. If he wins the next B.C. election, and some observers say Ontario's Tory government is eyeing similar action or a move to provincialize bargaining. In Nova Scotia, provincewide parents over his month-long cuts to education have slammed doors, but only after the Conservative government agreed to provide \$34 million to cover school-board deficits and teachers' salaries next year. Still, Nova Scotia boards are expected to cut \$20 million, including about 200 teaching positions across the province.

After years of turmoil in education, many parents are disillusioned with what they see as the steady degradation of public schools. Across Canada, enrollment in private schools has jumped 23 per cent since 1990. After seeing their son Jamal struggle in an overcrowded Grade 2 class, Halifeh mother Katherine Ali and her husband, Yousif, a doctor, plan to place the eight-year-old in Bedford Elementary Academy. That local private school, which charges annual fees of \$3,800, has tripled in size since 1998. "Their daughter Sarah is already in the kindergarten program," says Ali. "The cost of education is starting to suffer." says Ali, a marketing consultant. "It's not going to sacrifice a child to the public system."

In Ontario, the government insists it is pumping more money into schools to ensure the public system remains strong. Ecker says the move to make extracurricular activities mandatory is designed to threaten possible boycotts of those activities in the event of teacher protests. Teachers in Durham District School Board, which serves the education minister's own riding, northeast of Toronto, have refused to oversee those activities since their board implemented increased class size in 1998. Ecker says the government wants teachers to spend an extra 25 minutes in class each day to bring them in line with the national average. She also points to this month's provincial budget, which announced an extra \$241 million for special education, early reading programs, and reducing elementary class sizes. Says Ecker: "There's no question about the money that's going into education."

For those on the ground, however, that claim seems increasingly hard to swallow. The number of teachers in the province's schools has dropped by 11,399 in the past six years, while enrollment over the same period has jumped by more than 99,000, according to People for Education, a parent group. Urban school boards are hurting the most. In 1998, their local funding powers were stripped away and replaced with the flat-topping formula. By 2005, when the formula will be fully implemented, the Toronto District School Board alone expects it will have slashed \$362 million from its budget. It plans to do that as many as 30 schools by 2007. Across the province, 137 are slated to close this year and more.

Now, school boards are fighting back. In March, the Greater Essex County District School Board in Windsor, Ont., passed a resolution refusing to make further cuts, and three other boards, including Toronto and Ottawa, have passed similar measures. Ecker has ordered the Windsor board to overturn its decision. Under the Conservatives' new law,

the minister of education will have the authority to take over boards that fail to comply with orders regarding curriculum, instructional time or other matters. Under the Education Act, trustees could face jail sentences. But as former Toronto trustee Peter Nelson said at a recent educational symposium: "Sometimes there are things worth going to jail for."

Making extracurricular work compulsory will be a "nightmare" to implement, says Wong, and it is an insult to those who give of their time freely. To make matters worse, he argues, the extra class time will add hours of preparation. A recent study by Saint Mary's University in Halifax found that the average teacher in Nova Scotia usually works about 52.5 hours a week. "The teachers will do whatever they can to avoid a strike," says Bob Sargent, president of the Ontario Teachers' Federation, an umbrella organization for the province's four teachers' unions. "But in the end, that may be their only option."

The law without caused painful rifts, and in many cases, the healing is still going on. Parents and students feel caught



At work children Malik (left), Jamal and Soroob. The law going to sacrifice a child to the public system?

in the crossfire. What they need is stability, says Judy Wilson, president of the 16,800-member Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations. While she applauds the government's tougher high-school curriculum, introduced last fall for Grade 9, she says teachers and students were poorly prepared for it. Kids are falling through the cracks, especially in math and science. Signs of curbside are everywhere: vocational subjects have been scaled back, and increasingly, parents are being asked to raise money for such books as classroom maps, sheet music and teachers' resources. "There's a lot of apprehensions," says Wilson. "We wish everyone would stop fighting and focus on our children." Amid all the sniping, it's clear they are the ones with the most to lose. ■

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The Flyers' foibles

Internal conflicts have not derailed Philadelphia—yet

Most sports franchises try to promote team harmony and avoid distractions, particularly during the playoffs. Good chemistry and clear heads, the argument goes, are right there with talent and grit as key components in winning championships. The Philadelphia Flyers have recently taken another approach. Their top player, Eric Lindros, is injured and unhappy with the team's medical staff. Their head coach, Roger Neilson, who took a leave in midseason for cancer treatment, is back and upset at not being reinstated to his job. And both star and coach are at odds with the team's general manager and president, Bob Clarke, who has publicly disparaged Lindros and embarrassed Neilson by reassigning him to assisting his own former assistant, Craig Ramage.

The result? The Flyers advanced to this week's National Hockey League semifinals, having outlasted Buffalo and then Pittsburgh in the first two playoff rounds.

Successful strategies usually develop over time in the NHL, but this one will likely remain unique to Philadelphia. It's difficult enough to win the Stanley Cup

even without being "Team Terrible." Sixteen of 28 NHL teams qualify for the playoffs, and even the contenders can be undone by the unforeseen. In the first round, the St. Louis Blues—the home team in the regular season—surprisingly turned cold and lost to the San Jose Sharks. And the Toronto Maple Leafs fell to the New Jersey Devils in just be-

cause the Leafs, semifinalists in 1993, were decimated by injuries to five regulars. So even Clarke expresses surprise at how events have played out in Philly. "If anything," he says, "all these things that were going on were tearing the team."

Hockey fans who aren't distracted by office shenanigans are in for a treat in this semi-finals. There is a history of terrific rivalries in both conferences' series—in the east, the Flyers and Devils have paired off once before, in 1995, when New Jersey upset the favored Flyers and went on to win the Cup. Our west, the Dallas Stars defeated the Colorado Avalanche just last year in a fierce semi-final match-up that has Colorado



Lindros (left), Neilson; Lindros before his injury (right); Neilson

W WORLDWIDE

MEMO

Recycling Paper clips



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Sports

looking forward to seeing the score.

In Philadelphia, though, hockey seemed almost secondary while the Lindros-Clarke confrontation continued to swirl. Lindros spent most of last week in Toronto recovering from his fifth career concussion in two seasons and pondering a scintillating series of matchups. He was initially sidelined on March 13, nine days after suffering a severe head injury, and when it became clear he had been allowed to play four games in that condition, he criticized the team's medical and training staff for the incorrect diagnosis and subsequent risk to his health. Clarke, who last year charmed Lindros for not playing when the centre had suffered a collapsed lung, blamed Lindros' injuries to concussion and ripped him of his captivity. Then, when Lindros began to feel better and resumed training, he suffered yet another concussion in a freak accident at practice.

Lindros may yet return to playoff action. His headaches have stopped, he was scheduled to begin skating at the team's New Jersey training centre early this week and he might be available if the Devils' series goes to seven games. He'll be welcome, second-line centre Keith Primeau sustained a concussion after a thundering backcheck in the last Pittsburgh game, and has uncertain playing status leaves the Flyers periodically shut down the middle. "With our Lindros and Primeau," says former NHL coach Pierre McGuire, now a broadcast analyst, "the Flyers don't match up well against New Jersey."

If the Flyers are still alive when Lindros is fit to return, then Clarke has a small problem. He wanted Lindros to apologize publicly to team officials for criticizing their diagnosis. Lindros has not done so, and his father-agent, Carl, would not comment last week, fearing anything he says might further inflame the situation. The team fans have to hope for reconciliation since most agree with Neilson's assessment of the Flyers' chances. "It was the Stanley Cup," the coach says, "we'll need Eric."

James Deacon

INTERNET Shopping Guide

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Let There Be Dark

Fighting light pollution, designated dark-sky preserves open the heavens to stargazers



By D'Arcy Jenish

At twilight, a great blue heron drifts over Highland Pond in the Torrance Barrens of Ontario's Muskoka lakes district. And in darkness falls, a pair of loons announce their presence on the water with piercing cries. But the 16 members of the North York Astronomical Association camped on the rocky shoreline barely notice. They have driven 200 km north from Toronto on an April weekend to observe distant stars, galaxies and other celestial wonders from Canada's first dark-sky preserve. They are the first stargazing group to camp at the 2,000-hectare site since the province passed legislation last year safeguarding the barrens from a further incursion of outdoor lighting that has blurred much of the night sky in most urban areas. "There are beautiful galaxies visible at this time of year," says Toronto resident Jan Rindbeck, peering through his two-meter-long, 55-cm telescope. "But you've got to get away from the city to see them."

Many nights, astronomers say, city dwellers can see fewer than 100 of the roughly 4,000 stars that should be visible

to the naked eye. The problem is sky glow—the pale orange halo that hovers over large urban areas due to sprawling development and the proliferation of high-powered outdoor lighting. The situation worsened over the past decade, experts say, as service stations, fast-food outlets and car dealerships, among others, crisscrossed brightly lit highways to attract customers. "It's about," says lighting designer Nancy Clanton of Boulder, Colo., chairwoman of a committee that drafted new outdoor guidelines for the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America. "These places look like operating rooms."

One solution to excess urban light is the dark sky preserve. Michigan authorities created the first in 1993, imposing restrictions on outdoor lights at Lake Huron State Park, 160 km southwest of Detroit. Ontario established the second, at Torrance Barrens, last August. And in April, amateur astronomers in Abbotsford, B.C., 70 km southeast of Vancouver, successfully appealed to their city council for a dark-sky designation at a nearby park shielded from the community's lights by a mountain. "People who live in cities have to go on



an expedition to see the night sky," says astronomy writer Terence Dickinson of Yorkton, Ont., 25 km northwest of Kingston. "They're surrounded when they see a sky full of stars."

Increasingly, municipalities are adopting measures to protect the skies over

within urban areas. In March, 1995, the Toronto suburb of Richmond Hill adopted the first bylaw in Canada regulating the brightness of commercial, industrial and institutional lighting.

Several communities in Ontario and British Columbia are considering similar measures. South of the border, Ansonia, Maine, Connecticut, Texas and New Mexico, and more than 100 municipalities, have imposed lighting restrictions. But more politicians admit those laws are weak. In New Mexico, for example, where legislation went into effect on Jan. 1, first offenders draw a warning, and subsequent violations a \$25 fine. "We have powerful members who didn't want anything passed," says Albuquerque representative Pauline Gubbelo.

Poor lighting practices, such as building buildings with blazing floodlights that also illuminate the sky, have become so prevalent that even some towns and municipalities are trying to tackle the problem. Clanton says the engineering society issued new guidelines for its 9,000 members last year. They recommended that security lights be no more than five times stronger than surrounding street lamps and that retail display lighting also be limited to five times that ambient level. But many commercial establishments use lights designed for sports stadiums or airport terminals that, Clanton says, are as much as 10 times more powerful than roadway illumination. "If you talk to building engineers with the national chains that use these lights," she says, "they'll tell you they got their instructions from the marketing department."

The Richmond Hill bylaw controls lighting used strictly for display or marketing purposes. Enforcement officer Robert Cowie says it requires any new establishments to shield their lights to ensure that no more than two per cent of the illumination shines into the sky. And any business that closes overnight must reduce exterior illumination, in some cases by up to 75 per cent, at 11 p.m., leaving only enough light for security purposes. "We haven't prosecuted anyone yet," says Cowie. "But we have to watch the contractors

because they always want to install lights that are acceptable in neighbouring municipalities, but illegal here."

In Muskoka, meanwhile, supporters of the Torrance Barrens are using the dark-sky designation to try to convince neighbouring municipalities to pass lighting bylaws. Lack of development in the rocky, swampy preserve has kept its sky relatively dark. But the area is amid some of the most desirable cottage country in the province. A steady increase in night lighting throughout the region is blurring the view close to the horizon. "We've been coming up here for 50 years," says retired Toronto architect Peter Goering, who led the campaign to protect the barrens, "and I've seen the night sky diminish. The lakes are lined with cottages now and wherever you look, it's lights, lights, lights."

Darrell Driscoll, one participant in the North York association's expedition, first reached the skies from Muskoka

three decades ago when stars were visible just above the trees. Now, he says, there is too much light at that level. Standing among colleagues using red flashlights to control their sky charts without exposing their eyes to bright light, Driscoll surveys the horizon. He points to the glow from Orillia, a city 60 km to the southeast, and fainter smudges from Guelph and Brant, smaller communities 20 km away. But higher in the heavens, the Torrance Barrens provide ideal conditions for astronomical observation. On that inaugural weekend, Driscoll and fellow skywatchers found the galaxies, constellations and other celestial beauties they were seeking. "We actually saw something that was 2.5 billion light-years away, according to our charts," he said. "It was just a pinpoint of light, but a very interesting object." One visible only in an unlit sky, the kind that is progressively disappearing in built-up areas. ■

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Dig in the Dancing Queen.*

There. The ABBA has been applied. It will borrow deep into the grey matter; it will shoot around the neurotransmitters. It will play at its relentlessly happy clip for the duration of this article. It will control you. See that girl. Watch that scene. Dig in the Dancing Queen.

You might as well get the music in you now. Seconds after the hit ABBA musical *Mamma Mia!* opens officially in Toronto on May 23, journalists across the country will begin hailing the ABBA revival from the rooftops. Don't believe the hype. There is no ABBA revival. How could there be? The famous popdivas from Sweden—two men and two women wearing silver and gold platform shoes, pastel neckerchiefs, tank tops and dangle-dangle pendants—never went away. "There are only two kinds of people," says ABBA fan Alison Breen, a 29-year-old Ottawa-based international market analyst, "those who like ABBA and those who like ABBA but won't admit it."

Well, OK, if you don't count those who love ABBA. Yet there is no denying that ABBA's sales loom above the music industry like a towering platform boot. Every hour of every day around the world, 138 ABBA records are sold (that's 3,300 per day). Since the group debuted in 1973, it has sold 350 million albums, CDs and tapes worldwide. ABBA music figures prominently in such movies as *Mamma Mia!* (1999) and *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Queen of the Desert* (1999). ABBA tribute bands such as Björn Again and ABBAManche

By Andrew Clark



Mamma Mia! features a light plot, an old-fashioned ending and 22 songs from the group that defined a decade for many



ABBA is in
beginning in the
1970s; Ulfarsson
and Pärson (left);
never from
the musical
(opposite); the
rule says that
after 20 years
a decade can
be cool again

traverse the globe, keeping the fire alive. The Irish group Westlife tapped the British charts in 1999 with their cover of the ABBA tune *I Have a Dream*. The "Official ABBA News Service" keeps fans informed with online updates. Even U2's Bono has called ABBA "one of the greatest pop groups of all time."

And *Mamma Mia!*—which opened last spring in London and became the hit of the season—is already the best-selling show in the 93-year history of Toronto's Royal Alexandra Theatre. Advance-ticket sales for the run, which ends in September, exceed \$8 million. All four ABBA members are

expected to attend the opening of the raucous Canadian (28 in a cast of 30) production—the first time in five years that the group will have appeared in public together. It's all so ABBA-solutely fabulous.

An unrepentant Björn Ulvasson, ABBA's lyricist and guitarist, inevitably conjures up all the teenage punk and heavy-metal fans who, back in the 1970s, dreamed of taking a sledgehammer to every ABBA album in creation. To North American readers too cool to "feel the beat from the tambourine" in *Dancing Queen*, ABBA was a Nordic plague. But 55-year-old Björn possesses a cavalier cool that could win over the most diehard AC/DC devotee. Visiting Toronto recently, he laughed uproariously when told of the false urban legend that he and the other male in the group, co-writer and keyboard player Benny Andersson, wife swapped their respective spouses. ABBA lead singers Agnetha Fältskog (the blond) and Anni-Frid Lyngstad (the non-blond). He displays wry wit as he describes why, earlier this year, ABBA named down a \$1 billion (U.S.) offer to merge and star "If people like ABBA they like the image of ABBA back then," he says. "Why would anyone want to revoke it?" And besides, when you divide it by four, it's only \$250 million per person."

Before ABBA emerged in the early 1970s, Sweden was newsworthy on the international pop-music map. Agnetha and Anni-Frid were both respected Swedish singers. Benny

The irony and the ecstasy

A new movie mixes satire with drug-fuelled exhilaration

By Brian D. Johnson

Filmmakers tend to strain themselves when trying to convey what it's like to be on drugs. They resort to special effects and crazed monologues—the hallucinogenic holocaust of the acid trip in *Euphoria*, the pharmacological haze of *Drugstore Cowboy*, the junkie who does down a roller in *Transcending*. Alcohol is easier to do: actors love to play drunks, and film lends itself to woozy, liquefied imagery. But the drug experience often comes across as an uncomfortable foreign language, a code for universally bad behaviour. And alcohol invariably re-

leads to dire moral consequences—Kevin Spacey's character in *American Beauty* gets himself killed just for scoring pot from the boy next door. But *House Tuffie* is quite another story. This music excursion through the British rave scene is one of the most authentic, non-judgmental and purely exhilarating movies ever made about the simple act of getting stoned.

One of the reasons it works is that it comes straight from the source. Novice director Justin Kerrigan, now 26, was in his early 20s when he wrote the script, which he describes as "absolutely autobiographical." So is the director's home-

town of Cardiff, Wales. *House Tuffie* unfolds as a long night's journey into party excess, tracking half a dozen ravers as they consume a balanced diet of ecstasy, cocaine, downers and alcohol. The narrative arc is dead simple: the ravers look forward to getting high, they get high, they come down. And Kerrigan casually focuses a romantic comedy out of the delirium, as the main character, Jip (John Simm), overcomes his sexual aversion—"a case of Mr. Floppy"—by falling in love with his friend Lulu (Lorraine Pilkington).

"That's exactly what happened none," Kerrigan told *MovieWeek*. "I was Mr. Floppy and I fell in love with my mate." When he was writing the film, he adds, "I was asking guys, just like Jip, it seems that every generation goes through the same thing—sexual insecurities, social paranoia and frustrations that build up in the working week. Everyone at some stage can relate to a lost weekend. You get up on Friday and you say, 'To hell with it. We're going to have a screen. We're going to live for the present, as opposed to



a future which is never going to come."

Clocking in at 99 minutes, *House Tuffie* zooms by as a whirlwind of witty dialogue, funny sequences and blue-streak monologues, with characters often talking directly to the camera—a device also used in Stephen Frears' *High Fidelity*, the actress' other smart movie about music and pop culture. You can practically hear the brain cells popping as the characters plunge into the night. In fact, most of the extra-dancing in the background are on ecstasy—Kerrigan

based in hundreds of them and staged actual raves for the shoot.

The film's hedonistic pulse is underscored by shrewd satire. There is a hilarious exchange between a black record-store clerk with a Cockney accent and a white fan of jungle music babbling in Jamaican patois. And Kerrigan takes the mick out of anti-drug propaganda, notably with a nightclub scene in which a TV interviewer asks Lulu and Nina (Nicola Reynolds) if they are on ecstasy. "No, we gave that up," they

Scene from the movie with Simm (center): the director staged raves for the shoot

designer, "We're on heroin now—we saw *Transcending* and it made us do it."

Transcending is the obvious precursor to *House Tuffie*, but this is a much lighter ride, with none of *Transcending*'s violence or sociology. And although Kerrigan expected his film to be controversial, ecstasy has become so widespread in Britain that the film's movie opened without a ripple. *House Tuffie* has even taken Kerrigan into the mainstream. After the film had its North American premiere at Toronto's film festival last fall—and the director staged up all night on ecstasy—he was rewarded by a phone call asking him to meet with Miramax co-chairman Harvey Weinstein. "I've had about an hour's lip," he says. "I'm on a come-down, and I have to meet Harvey." Weinstein bought the film and signed Kerrigan to a three-picture deal—turning a last weekend into a windfall. ■

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Getting hitched, again and again

Screen legend Elizabeth Taylor is assuming to her birthplace to be honoured by Queen Elizabeth II. On May 24, Taylor, 68, will be made a dame—the female equivalent of being knighted—at Buckingham Palace for her contribution to film. The actress, who was born in London, has appeared in more than 60 films. Taylor is also famous for being married eight times, a lot even by Hollywood standards.

But her director Billy Bob Thornton might be on track to beat her rapids record. Thornton, 44, was married for the fifth time last week, to actress Angelina Jolie, 24, at a Las Vegas wedding chapel. (It was Jolie's second marriage.)



Thornton (left) and Jolie in *Crash*. Taylor, many spouses

The former co-stars—they portrayed a dysfunctional couple in the 1999 film *Crash*—reportedly began dating only three weeks ago. But the seriousness of the relationship has become apparent when Jolie was seen sporting a Billy Bob tattoo on her shoulder. True love indeed.

Pop Movies

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. <i>Gladiator</i> (R) | \$1,117,348 |
| 2. <i>8 Mile</i> (PG-13) | \$1,004,030 |
| 3. <i>From Justin to Kelly</i> (PG) | \$712,118 |
| 4. <i>When the Boat Hits</i> (PG) | \$611,228 |
| 5. <i>Demolition Man</i> (PG) | \$601,870 |
| 6. <i>I Dreamed of Africa</i> (PG) | \$558,880 |
| 7. <i>28 Days</i> (PG) | \$427,400 |
| 8. <i>Crash</i> (R) | \$338,292 |
| 9. <i>Exit Through the Kitchen</i> (PG) | \$208,900 |
| 10. <i>Rules of Engagement</i> (PG) | \$182,240 |

Top movies in Canada, ranked according to box office receipts for the week ending May 11. (To learn more about these movies, visit www.fox.com.)

Comedy 101

Canadian shock comic Tom Green co-stars in *Road Trip*, which, in the movie's opinion, is about four college buddies who drive 2,900 km from New York to Texas. They hope to retrieve the videotape of one of them, Josh (Brecken Meyer), coinciding with a co-ed that was accidentally sent to his long-time girlfriend.



Green

Best-Sellers

| Picasso | Last Week |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 1 |
| 2. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 2 |
| 3. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 3 |
| 4. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 4 |
| 5. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 5 |
| 6. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 6 |
| 7. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 7 |
| 8. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 8 |
| 9. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 9 |
| 10. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 10 |

New Fiction

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| 1. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 1 |
| 2. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 2 |
| 3. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 3 |
| 4. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 4 |
| 5. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 5 |
| 6. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 6 |
| 7. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 7 |
| 8. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 8 |
| 9. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 9 |
| 10. <i>THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</i> (F) | 10 |

1/Weeks in list

Compiled by Bruce Berman

Television

The documentary *Island of Shadows: L'Arcy Island L'Arcy* (Cineplex, 1991-1994, airing on May 17 on Vision TV), uncovers a shameful chapter in Canadian history. Beginning in 1981, the British Columbia government called "Chinamen" who had contracted leprosy to a barren island 30 km off the coast from Victoria. The island never had more than nine inhabitants at a time, who lived in

desertic shacks without baths or outdoors. Contact with the outside world was limited to a visit of a supply ship every three months, which dropped off food, supplies and coffins. Meanwhile, white leprosy in the same area were not treated with the same brutality. They were sent to a hospital in Vancouver, used archival materials and dramatic re-enactments to vividly bring this terrible story to life. A heritage miracle it is not.

Honouring a fallen funny guy

The late comic Phil Hartman was known as the master of sarcasm on the sitcom *Northern Exposure*, as a cast member of *Saturday Night Live* and as the voice of countless characters in *The Simpsons*. The Beaufort, Ont., native was killed in 1998, in a murder-suicide by his wife, Brynn Credell. But the Canadian comedy community is keeping his legacy alive with the creation of the Phil Hartman Memorial Award. Conceived by his brother John, the \$2,500 prize will be awarded this July in Beaufort. So finalists, all from the comedy program at Toronto's Humber College, have been picked-up, and will perform stand-up routines before a panel of judges, among them *SNL* producer Lorne Michaels. The aspiring comedians have a lot to live up to. "Phil Hartman," says the director of the comedy program at Humber College, Joe Kenna, "was one of the funniest people on the planet."



Hartman's legacy

Living history

The first time American director Thomas Wallin set eyes on Ruth Ellis, she was dancing at a 1957 music festival in Indiana. "I was trying to figure out how old she was," recalls Wallin. "But I never got the chance to ask because she never stopped dancing." Wallin soon learned that Ellis was 97—and the oldest openly gay black woman in America. Wallin's documentary *Long with Pride: Ruth Ellis* (R), screening this month at the Toronto Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, uses interviews, archival footage and dramatic portrayals of Ellis's life. Born in 1899 in Springfield, Ill., Ellis has been "out" since 1915, and is a longtime civil rights activist. "Listening to her," says Wallin, "is itself both a birth and a rebirth. I was witnessing American history through Ruth's eyes."

Toronto the Violent

The original Arthur Ellis, the first to take the pseudonym adopted by all of Canada's foremen, once remarked that only one of his executives had left him in fear of his own life. As Mark Johnson's *No Trace in the Gallies* (McGraw-Hill & Stewart) describes, that was the 1959 hanging of Frank McCullough in Toronto's Don Jail. Ellis was right to be worried. Much of the city, especially its numerous unemployed workers, had been seething with anti-police hatred for months, and a hostile crowd of 10,000 was gathered before the jail. Johnson provides an absorbing account of how the citizens of Toronto the Good came to champion McCullough—a charismatic American, army deserter convicted of murdering the first cop to die on duty in the city's history—even to the extent of burning riotous police with hoses and bricks.

Maclean's TV

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